Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-129
Thursday
8 July 1993

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-129 8 July 1993

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

Cordon States Said Contemplating Suspending Talks *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 5 Jul]* 1
Al-Husayni: Palestinians To Meet With U.S. Team *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

Negotiators: Abu-Sharif's Statements Not Official *[AL-QUDS 7 Jul]* 1
'Urayqat Discusses Coordination, U.S. Document *[Jerusalem International]* 1
'Ashrawi Asserts Sovereignty Over Territories *[Algiers VOP]* 2
PFLP, DFLP Urge Abandonment of Madrid Formula *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 2
Ten Factions Call For General Strike 9 Jul *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 2
Importance of Coordinating Arab Positions Viewed *[AL-QUDS 7 Jul]* 3
Press Reveals Plans for Anti-'Arafat Movement *[MENA]* 4

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Three Gendarmes Killed in Ambush by Armed Group *[Algiers TV]* 5
'Terrorists' Killed in Hostage-Taking Incident *[Algiers Radio]* 5

Egypt

Mubarak Remarks on Bridging Peace Talks 'Gap' Cited *[Cairo Radio]* 5
Ambassador to Israel Reviews Peace Negotiations *[Cairo International]* 5
Seven 'Terrorists' Hanged for Tourist Attacks *[MENA]* 6
Police Arrest 165 'Extremists' in Various Locations *[AFP]* 6
Eritrean President Arrives in Cairo 7 Jul *[MENA]* 7
UN's Butrus-Ghali Rejects Double-Standard Charges *[MENA]* 7
Al-Sharif on Relations With United States *[MENA]* 8
Writer Urges 'Equal Treatment' of Terrorism by U.S. *[AL-AKHBAR 30 Jun]* 8
Baghdad Strike Compared With 'Abd-al-Rahman Case *[AL-AKHBAR 30 Jun]* 9
Writer Terms U.S. Action in Iraq Illogical *[AL-AHRAM 29 Jun]* 9
Editor Analyzes Motives for Strike on Baghdad *[AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I 2 Jul]* 10

Morocco

Saudi Foreign Minister Arrives for Committee Session *[Rabat TV]* 12

Sudan

Al-Bashir Comments on Relations With Egypt, Other Issues *[Omdurman Radio]* 12

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Bush Trial Suspect Claims Bomb 'Thrown Away' *[AFP]* 13
French Defense Minister Completes Visit, Departs 13

Speaks With Counterpart *[Kuwait TV]* 13
Meets Deputy Prime Minister *[Kuwait TV]* 13
Holds News Conference *[KUNA]* 13
Departs 7 Jul *[KUNA]* 14

Qatar

Sudanese Foreign Minister Concludes Visit *[WAKH]* 14

Yemen

Omani Minister Pays Visit, Discusses Joint Cooperation 14
Conveys Sultan's Message to Salih *[Sanaa Radio]* 14
Holds Talks at Foreign Ministry *[Sanaa Radio]* 15
Interior Minister Discusses Security Problems *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 3 Jul]* 15

IRAQ

National Assembly Meets To Discuss U.S. 'Aggression' 17
Speaker: Nation Adheres to Resolutions *[Baghdad Radio]* 17
Speaker Issues Statement *[Baghdad Radio]* 17
U.S. Urged To 'Reconsider' Policy *[INA]* 18
Baghdad Sirens Sound for 'Suspected Enemy Raid' 7 Jul *[Baghdad Radio]* 18
Delegate Notes 'Spirit of Cooperation' at UN Oil Talks *[INA]* 18
Envoy to UN Speaks on Peace Talks, 'Isolation' *[HA'OLAM HAZE 4 Jul]* 19
Ambassador to Hungary Interviewed on U.S. Attack *[Budapest PESTI HIRLAP 5 Jul]* 19
AL-'IRAQ Claims 'Clintongate' Scandal Imminent *[1 Jul]* 20
AL-THAWRAH Ridicules U.S. Raid, Kuwait Trials *[INA]* 21
Vice President: Economic Future 'Surprise' for Enemies *[INA]* 21
Prices of Foodstuffs, Commodities Drop in Local Markets *[AL-QADISHIYAH 4 Jul]* 21
Columnist Explains Reason for Scarcity of Newspapers *[AL-QADISIYAH 4 Jul]* 22
Ba'th Party Official Comments on Situation in Kurdistan *[AL-IRAQ 3 Jul]* 22
Over 1,000 Kurds Flee Iranian Shelling Since Apr *[AFP]* 22
Clandestine Reports Troop Movement to Marshlands *[Voice of Iraqi People]* 23
Army Schedules Discharge of Conscripts Born in 1969 *[Baghdad Radio]* 23
Arab League Informed of 29, 30 Jun 'Violations' *[Baghdad Radio]* 23
More 'Violations' 3, 4 Jul *[INA]* 23

ISRAEL

Rabin Congratulates G-7 for Urging End to Boycott *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Beilin Returns From Moscow, Supports Talks With PLO *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Ministers Reject Direct Negotiations With PLO *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Amman Paper Reports Gaza, West Bank Security Plan *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 8 Jul]* 24
'Terrorist' Receives Life Sentence for Bombing *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Arab Murdered in Gaza; Israeli Wounded Near Jerusalem *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Member of Red Eagle Squad Killed in Rafah *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Officer Reports 'Steep Drop' in West Bank Violence *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Der'i To Forgo Hearing; Indictment to Knesset Soon *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26

JORDAN

King Admitted to Hospital for Irregular Heartbeat 27
Condition 'Stable' *[Amman Radio]* 27
King Interviewed by Telephone *[Amman Radio]* 27
King Leaves Hospital *[Amman Radio]* 27
'Arafat Says Dialogue With U.S. To Continue *[Amman Radio]* 28
EC Commissioner Concludes Visit, Departs 7 Jul *[Amman Radio]* 28
Media Treatment of King's Dialogue With Senators *[AL-RA'Y 5 Jul, etc.]* 28
Editorial Ridicules U.S. Aid to Bosnian Muslims *[AL-RA'Y 7 Jul]* 29
Information Minister Comments on Arab Reconciliation *[JORDAN TIMES 8-9 Jul]* 29

Students Protest Against School Administration *[JORDAN TIMES 6 Jul]* 30

LEBANON

Cabinet Denounces U.S. Senate Statement *[VOL]* 31
President, Foreign Minister Meet Czech Delegation *[Prague CTK]* 31
Israeli Soldiers Reported Killed in Bomb Attack *[AFP]* 31

SYRIA

Mubarak Discusses Regional Issues With al-Asad *[SANA]* 32
Talks Resume in Closed Meeting *[Damascus Radio]* 32
Commentary Views U.S. Document, Christopher Remarks *[Damascus Radio]* 32
Newspaper Questions Objectives of Ross Mideast Tour *[Damascus Radio]* 33
Editorial Decries U.S. 'Double-Standard' Policy *[Damascus Radio]* 33
Paper Rejects U.S. Senate Recommendation on Lebanon *[Damascus Radio]* 33

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Kidnapper Set Demands for Release of Chinese Hostages *[AFP]* 35
Hekmatyar Stresses Security, Islamic Government *[Radio Message of Freedom]* 35
Commission Meeting Discusses Implementing Resolutions *[Kabul Radio]* 36

Iran

President Returns from Turkey, Comments on ECO Summit *[Tehran Radio]* 36
ECO Summit 'Positive, Useful' *[IRNA]* 36
G-7 Call for Ending Arms Purchases, Terrorism Support Noted *[Tehran Radio]* 37
Summit Aims To 'Plunder' Third World *[Tehran International]* 37
Foreign Ministry Concerned Over 'Armenian Aggression' *[IRNA]* 38
Mohajerani on U.S. Policy, Other Issues *[ABRAR 27 Jun]* 38
Commentary Views Egypt's Role in Mideast Negotiations *[Tehran International]* 41
Talks Held With Ukrainian Transport Minister *[Tehran Radio]* 42
West Said To Favor Military Intervention in Pakistan *[IRNA]* 42
Paper Urges Enhanced Cooperation With Cuba *[IRNA]* 42
Karaj Prisoners Released After Khamene'i Pardon *[Tehran TV]* 43

Pakistan

Bhutto Meets President, Discusses Political Situation *[Islamabad TV]* 43
APC Relaxes Ultimatum on Deadline for New Elections *[Islamabad Radio]* 43
President Proposes Changes to Proclamation on Punjab *[THE NEWS 7 Jul]* 43
Sharif on U.S. Approach to South Asia, Other Issues *[Islamabad Radio]* 44
Regular Border Talks Meeting Held With India 6 Jul *[THE PAKISTAN TIMES 7 Jul]* 45
Forty People Said Killed in Kashmir; Hostage Taken *[Islamabad TV]* 45

Arab-Israeli Talks

Cordon States Said Contemplating Suspending Talks

PM0807103593 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Jul 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Cordon States To Discuss Possibility of Suspending Arab-Israeli Negotiations"]

[Excerpt] Cairo, Amman, Washington—Informed political sources yesterday confirmed that contacts have begun over the past two days among the Arab cordon states to discuss the possibility of suspending the Arab-Israeli negotiations until the U.S. Administration reaches a compromise formula vis-a-vis the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles. The sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that this proposal emerged after the 10th round of peace negotiations ended without achieving any tangible progress.

The sources also said that the cordon states are thinking about forming a unified Arab delegation to visit Moscow and a number of European capitals to brief their leaders on the true Israeli position of refusing to achieve peace on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

This development comes at a time when U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christophers is warning about the consequences of the collapse of the peace process in the region.

Al-Husayni: Palestinians To Meet With U.S. Team

TA0707160193 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Excerpts] According to the latest reports from Moscow, Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin and Faysal al-Husayni, the head of the Palestinian delegation, met in Moscow today in the framework of a session of the steering committee. Faysal al-Husayni told Beilin that the Palestinians will not boycott the talks with the U.S. peace team slated to arrive in our region tomorrow. According to Israeli sources, al-Husayni also said that the Palestinians will agree to discuss the U.S. document, even though they still do not regard it as a basis for negotiations. The Palestinians are demanding that changes be introduced into two or three central points. They will, however, agree to discuss the document, despite their reservations about it as a basis for negotiations. [passage omitted]

The session of the steering committee ended to Israel's satisfaction. The Palestinian demand to establish working groups on Jerusalem and on human rights was not raised. A Tunisian attempt to make the upcoming multilateral session in Tunis conditional on the return of the deportees was unsuccessful. The multilateral committee on refugee affairs will therefore convene in Tunis during October, and will be attended by the Israeli representatives.

Palestinian Affairs

Negotiators: Abu-Sharif's Statements Not Official

TA0707125693 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 7 Jul 93 p 4

[Excerpts] Ramallah—Ghassan al-Khatib, member of the negotiating delegation, has stressed that the remarks by Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, are only Abu-Sharif's personal view and do not express the official Palestinian position. [passage omitted]

Al-Khatib said that Bassam Abu-Sharif is not the PLO's official spokesman, and this has been explained several times by the PLO's official spokesman and WAFA. [passage omitted]

For his part, Dr. Zakariya al-Agha, member of the Palestinian delegation, emphasized that Bassam Abu-Sharif's statements to Israeli Television do not express the Palestinian viewpoint, whether in terms of the PLO's and the negotiating delegation's stance or the views of the Palestinian in the street.

Al-Agha criticized Abu-Sharif, saying: "We are accustomed to Abu-Sharif's fantasies, which he utters whether it is a suitable occasion or not." Al-Agha termed Abu-Sharif's statements irresponsible.

Regarding the issue of confederation, which Abu-Sharif advocated, al-Agha stressed that talk should focus on ending the occupation and giving the Palestinian people their right to self-determination. This is the Palestinian people's priority.

Al-Agha noted that responsible Palestinian statements regarding the Palestinian problem are made by President 'Arafat or the PLO's official spokesman. Any statement by any other person is only a personal viewpoint and does not express the official position. [passage omitted]

'Urayqat Discusses Coordination, U.S. Document

JN0707175193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, member of the negotiating delegation, by correspondent Sa'id Mu'addi, carried within the "With the Evening Events" program; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Good evening, Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat.

['Urayqat] Good evening.

[Mu'addi] The first question is about yesterday's meeting with King Husayn in Amman. Was a unified strategy reached for the coming phase?

['Urayqat] In fact, there was thorough coordination with Jordan before the Madrid conference. Yesterday's meeting especially confirmed this coordination. It was agreed to enhance this coordination in all fields to confront the challenges of recent developments, particularly in light of direct U.S. intervention in the peace process and in view of the assessment of the recent round of negotiations. This thorough coordination, I believe, has moved to a new horizon that will deal with all issues requiring joint Jordanian-Palestinian agreement. The committees will begin their work very soon.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Sa'ib, regarding the U.S. document, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said today that Washington was not surprised by the Palestinian and Israeli positions on this document. Can this document be a basis for negotiations?

['Urayqat] It is true that Christopher was not surprised by the Palestinian position. This is because the Palestinian and U.S. sides held 49 hours of talks in the recent round. The U.S. side was informed that any document excluding Jerusalem and not addressing the issue of geographic jurisdiction would not be accepted by the Palestinians. We notified the U.S. Administration that this document cannot be a basis for discussing the declaration of principles. It cannot be dealt with. A U.S. team will arrive here tomorrow. We will hold meetings with it. The Palestinian side will discuss two points: First, the issue of Jerusalem; second, the issue of geographic jurisdiction.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Sa'ib: Is there any final and official PLO position calling for rejecting the ideas contained in the U.S. document?

['Urayqat] Yes, the official PLO position is to reject dealing with this document due to the way it addresses the issues of Jerusalem and geographic jurisdiction, as I said. The PLO is now holding a series of contacts with the Arab states. The foreign ministers of the Arab states participating in the peace process will meet in Beirut after the U.S. team ends its tour of the region. All these matters will assess the impact and dimensions of U.S. intervention and the U.S. way of dealing with the Palestinian side in the 10th round.

[Mua'ddi] So what steps will the Palestinians take next? Do you believe the next round of bilateral negotiations will be held at the end of this month or at the beginning of next month?

['Urayqat] First of all, no party has been officially notified of the date for the next round of talks. The Palestinian leadership met in Tunis on Saturday [3 July] and assessed the 10th round. It was agreed to make an Arab tour and respond to the invitation extended to the foreign ministers of the Arab states participating in the peace process to meet in Beirut soon. The Palestinian meeting is open. Depending on all these moves and their results, the Palestinian leadership will hold an expanded meeting in order to take future steps.

'Ashrawi Asserts Sovereignty Over Territories

LD0707181593 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Sister Hanan 'Ashrawi, official spokeswoman of the Palestinian delegation to the talks, said in Amman that only the Palestinians have the right of sovereignty over the occupied land and criticized the U.S. settlement document, which would postpone the discussion of sovereignty until the last phase of the talks.

Sister 'Ashrawi said that we, as Palestinians, have been prevented from exercising sovereignty as a result of the occupation and that Israel has no equal right to demand sovereignty over this land.

'Ashrawi pointed out that the document includes postponing the issue of sovereignty until the final phase of the talks and not dealing with the issue of Jerusalem within the arrangements of the transitional period.

She pointed out that such proposals agree with the Israeli stance but are in conflict with U.S. policy, the point of reference of the peace process, Palestinian rights, and Security Council resolutions.

On his part, brother Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO information department, who is accompanying brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] on his visit to Jordan, announced that the Palestinians cannot deal with the U.S. document, which reflects a complete U.S. bias in favor of the Israeli stance.

PFLP, DFLP Urge Abandonment of Madrid Formula

JN0707134293 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1300 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Following a joint command meeting, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] have declared that the results of the 10th round of negotiations transformed the bilateral talks with Israel into a national disaster, in the full sense of the word. This threatens to erase the Palestinian people's rights. The two fronts called for suspending Palestinian and Arab participation in the talks, abandoning the Madrid-Washington formula, and resorting to the UN Security Council.

Ten Factions Call For General Strike 9 Jul

JN0707192193 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1652 GMT 7 Jul 93

["Text" of a statement issued by 10 Palestinian factions; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] O masses of our militant Palestinian people: The Palestinian negotiating team and its influential leadership in Tunis still avoid listening to the people's voice and persist in circumventing our national consensus on rejecting the humiliating so-called negotiations process. The danger this process poses to our cause and our inalienable rights increases daily.

The so-called peace process has entered its 21st month. We believe this is time enough for this team to abandon its nonnational and irresponsible policy and return to the national consensus. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi said the negotiations are useless and deadlocked. The 10 factions warn this team against the consequences of continuing this dangerous game. The 10 factions affirm that the negotiating team and its influential leadership are proceeding with this treasonous plan without any national or moral deterrence. The team and its leadership are completely in line with U.S.-Zionist plans.

Circumventing the cause of our brother deportees in Marj al-Zuhur confirms our words that the Madrid-Washington team is responding to U.S. and Zionist pressure, circumventing our firm national causes, and taking measures and steps that serve and achieve the Zionist enemy's objectives.

O masses of our Arab and Islamic nation: The decisions to move the venues of the committees involved in the multilateral negotiations to several Arab states are part of the normalization of relations with the Zionist enemy, so that the masses of our nation will become accustomed to seeing the Zionists in their capitals.

The 10 Palestinian factions appeal to the Arab and Islamic masses and to militant and mujahidin forces and personalities to confront these decisions and firmly face this Zionist penetration into the region. This penetration aims to destroy our vital components and undermine our economic, social, and moral structure.

O masses of our heroic people: We realize the magnitude of suffering and the heavy blows dealt by the government of terrorist Rabin to our heroic strugglers and mujahidin. We also realize that the militant peoples' path is thorny, but it will ultimately remove the yoke of occupation and achieve the national objectives.

The 10 Palestinian factions, representing the national terms of reference, appeal to the masses of our people to confront the policies of frustration and despair some Palestinian personalities are pursuing, and to foil wagering on fragmenting our people's unity. The 10 factions greet the masses of our militant and wronged people and salute our blessed intifadah, which is approaching the end of its sixth year. We are confident that the intifadah can foil the administrative self-rule's conspiracy, organs, and everything attached to this rule.

The 10 factions urge the masses of our people to head for the houses of the negotiating delegation members in order to make protests and urge these members to listen to the people's voice and discontinue this accursed process. They also appeal to the masses of our people to head for the houses of our brother deportees in Marj al-Zuhur in order to express solidarity with their families and continue the support for both their steadfastness and confrontation of the conspiracy of circumventing their cause.

The 10 factions call on the masses of our people to stage a general strike on 9 July on the intifadah entering its 68th month. Down with the conspiracies targeting both our sacred cause and militant people. Victory to the brave intifadah. Glory to the martyrs. Freedom to the prisoners and detainees. Collective and immediate return to the deportees. Greetings to the heroes of the Islamic and national resistance men in southern Lebanon, who confront the aggressions of the Zionists and their agents.

[Signed] The 10 factions

Importance of Coordinating Arab Positions Viewed

TA0707161193 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 7 Jul 93 p 9

[Editorial: "The Importance of Coordinating Arab Positions"]

[Text] After the PLO announced its rejection of what is called the U.S. compromise document and after Israel criticized several points in it, the question now is about the benefit of the subsequent U.S. step, epitomized by the imminent dispatch of a U.S. envoy to the region.

Warren Christopher has warned in advance of the possible U.S. retreat from its peaceful role if its proposals are not accepted by the Palestinian and Israeli parties in the talks. Such a warning is proof that U.S. intervention has not satisfied either of the two parties, although each has its own reasons for being dissatisfied.

Israel, after having become accustomed to a total U.S. bias in its favor, which deprived many of international legitimacy's resolutions of their effectiveness and means of implementation, now finds it hard that its partner, the United States, has presented a paper spelling out the established U.S. policies on the Middle East problem. Those policies consider Jerusalem part of the Arab lands occupied in 1967 and that what applies to those lands also applies to Jerusalem in terms of its final destiny, whereby its future will be decided in the final negotiations.

As for the Palestinian side, it sees in the U.S. document a mere echo of Israeli positions, particularly with regard to the nature, functions, and powers of self-government. Additionally, there is a U.S. tendency to dilute the concept of the terms of reference of negotiations, which became evident when U.S. sources announced that they were backing down from the letter of assurances given to the Palestinians and sufficing only with the letter of invitation to the Madrid Conference.

Hence, the threat by the United States to pull out of the talks should be attributed to the fact that its position did not rise to the level of an effective and active full partner that relies on firm political convictions and principles. Rather, in most respects, the United States remained a captive of its efforts to appease the Israeli side, which has always been accustomed to a supportive U.S. position. Now this side is endeavoring to keep Washington within its realm of permanent support for Israel's policy and positions.

Thus, even if we were to assume that the United States would try to modify its biased policies toward Israel, it will not only collide again with a wall of opposition, but pressure will be exerted on the U.S. Administration from within the United States itself. Those pressures played a large role in the defeat of former President George Bush and the election of his current successor, Bill Clinton.

The only hope for change lies in coordination of Arab positions and insistence on Palestinian rights within framework of the valid resolutions of international legitimacy.

Press Reveals Plans for Anti-'Arafat Movement

NC0707130393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Beirut, 7 Jul (MENA)—Political and diplomatic circles in Beirut today focused on an announcement by the Fatah Movement command in Beirut yesterday, which strongly denied there was a split in the Movement in the Lebanese arena.

Colonel Munir al-Muqaddam, commander of Force 17 of the Fatah Movement in Lebanon, reiterated his full loyalty to Yasir 'Arafat, denying reports of a split. At a Fatah command meeting yesterday in the city of Sidon, south Lebanon, Col. al-Muqaddam said that with the movement standing fast on the security blockade and a series of assassinations, it is the target of rumors about splits. The meeting was attended by officers and members of the movement's military council.

Al-Muqaddam said: We should always expect storms that seek to weaken Palestinian unity. But, he added, we want to maintain this unity and continue our armed struggle in coordination with our leadership in Tunis.

Citing informed sources in the PLO, press reports today spoke of an expected proclamation soon of a new Palestinian organization opposed to President Yasir 'Arafat. The Lebanese newspaper NIDA' AL-WATAN said the new organization is part of a plan to minimize the role of the Fatah-Central Committee in Lebanon and to enhance the role of politicians at the expense of the military, especially the role of Force 17 Commander Col. Munir al-Muqaddam. Arab Gulf parties are collaborating on this plan.

The paper notes that Hani al-Hasan and Abu-Mahir Ghunaym visited south Lebanon to coordinate with Palestinian leaders, primarily Zayd Wa'ibah, Midhat Salih, and Fathi Abu-'Urdaq, to attract them to the new movement, which rejects the current PLO policy.

The report notes that the new coalition, which represents a real split within the Fatah Movement, is the first of its kind since the proclamation of the dissident movement of Abu-Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] in 1982. The coalition will embrace a group of Palestinian leaders, most notably Abu-Mahir Ghunaym, Abu-al-Adib, 'Abbas Zaki, and Hani al-Hasan.

According to the informed sources, these leaders are dissatisfied with 'Arafat's monopoly of fateful decisions and his rejection of the pan-Palestinian dialogue formula.

The sources add that the recent meeting in Amman, attended by 'Abbas Zaki, secretary general of the committee on supporting the intifadah, Central Committee member Hani al-Hasan, and other Fatah administrative and military officials, adopted several resolutions, primarily to minimize 'Arafat's role, invigorate armed struggle within the occupied territories, rebuild the military structures, separate Fatah from the PLO, and reject the peace talks in their current form.

Algeria

Three Gendarmes Killed in Ambush by Armed Group

LD0707202293 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] It was learned from the National Gendarmerie Command that three gendarmes died after being seriously injured following an ambush laid by an armed group yesterday between Bordj Menaiel and Ras Djinet in Boumerdes Province. The three gendarmes were Hrawi Abdelkader, Azzouz Omar, and Oudine Faycal. The search for the perpetrators continues.

The National Gendarmerie Command also stated that Hamman Elouan, deputy chairman of the municipality delegate [deputy chairman of the mayor appointed by the government], his driver, and an employee of the same municipality were killed today during a terrorist attack on the car they were in.

The same source announced the killing of an agricultural engineer and his wife by shotguns. The attack on the couple took place in their house in Benkhlil village, in the town of Boufarik.

'Terrorists' Killed in Hostage-Taking Incident

LD0707223793 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 2130 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Seven terrorists have been shot dead this afternoon at (Inama) in the Wilaya of Tlemcen. This morning the group had taken hostage a whole family from the building in the Cite des Oliviers. The hostages were unharmed. There were no victims among the security forces or the inhabitants of the estate.

Egypt

Mubarak Remarks on Bridging Peace Talks 'Gap' Cited

NC0807064293 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0335 GMT 8 Jul 93

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-AHRAM cites statements by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak that Egypt has many ideas to bridge the gap between the two sides, Palestinian and Israeli, and to push the peace process forward. His excellency said he hoped these ideas will help to remove the obstacles before this march in cooperation with the United States.

The newspaper AL-AKHBAR highlights President Husni Mubarak's statement on the need to realize the importance of the Islamic holy shrines in Jerusalem for the Muslims and to give them the same importance given to the holy shrines of the Christians and the Jews if the ultimate hope is to realize a just and comprehensive Middle East settlement.

Ambassador to Israel Reviews Peace Negotiations

NC0807083793 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Telephone interview with Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni in Tel Aviv by Fawzi al-Jundi in Cairo on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] Dear brothers, Egypt cares about strengthening the peace process in every stage. This is the Egyptian role, which is being entrenched constantly through the activities of Egyptian diplomacy. During the past few days, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres visited Egypt. We are now talking to Egypt's Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni, who we welcome to this dialogue.

[Basyuni] Thank you very much.

[Al-Jundi] Following our short introduction and Shim'on Peres' recent visit to Cairo, coming after a round of peace talks and during preparations for a coming round of talks, [question incomplete as heard]

[Basyuni] Shim'on Peres' visit to Cairo comes within the framework of extensive Egyptian contacts with all the parties to bridge the gap and reach a Palestinian-Israeli agreement on the American paper, which is considered to be a set of ideas and proposals to reach a joint agreement on principles that will be a basis for negotiations on the Israeli-Palestinian track.

[Al-Jundi] If we discuss the Palestinian side to the peace talks, Voice of the Arabs yesterday interviewed Bassam Abu-Sharif, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, who announced that the Palestinian side has presented everything it has to push the peace effort forward. Do you believe the ball is in the Israeli court and that Tel Aviv should take the initiative during the coming round?

[Basyuni] There is an American paper, which, according to Palestinian views, contains some positive and negative points. Today, an American delegation headed by Dennis Ross will arrive here in an attempt to bring viewpoints closer and bridge the gap between the Israeli and Palestinian stances to realize the goal of reaching agreement on the declaration of joint principles. So there is a paper; there are ideas. The Palestinian side believes this paper has some negative and positive points. We believe the positive points could be built upon. The negative points could be discussed and, because these ideas and this paper are not sacred, there could be amendments and common points could be approved by both sides.

[Al-Jundi] Could we say these days witness Egyptian activity and effort to bring the Palestinian and Israeli viewpoints closer on the ideas proposed by Washington at the end of the last round of peace negotiations?

[Basyuni] Undoubtedly, Egypt plays a major and pivotal role in pushing the peace march forward and in bridging the gap between the two parties to reach agreement between the Palestinians and the Israelis.

[Al-Jundi] Ambassador, it has been announced that a new round of talks will start at the beginning of August. Do you believe the circumstances, in light of the results of previous rounds, are good for starting a successful round of talks that will achieve the results that previous rounds failed to achieve?

[Basyuni] I do not look at the previous rounds separately. We look at the 10 rounds as a whole. We see where we are now and where we were. Undoubtedly, some progress has been made. True, the results do not measure up to the expectations. But when the peace train moves forward, no one can stop it or turn it back. We started the peace march and talks and they must continue until the target is achieved. We might meet obstacles, but this is natural. We must exert efforts and persevere to realize the goal we seek—the national legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

[Al-Jundi] Many observers believe the delay in the peace process and the absence of progress cause great damage in the Middle East arena, especially with regard to the escalation of events in the occupied Arab territories.

[Basyuni] Stability and security in the region are a major concern to everyone. The Middle East region is not isolated from the rest of the world. Europe, the United States, Japan, and Russia all want to see stability and security in the region. So, it is important to continue the peace talks until security, safety, and stability in the Middle East region are achieved.

[Al-Jundi] Ambassador Basyuni, Voice of the Arabs thanks you.

[Basyuni] Thank you.

Seven 'Terrorists' Hanged for Tourist Attacks

NC0807085893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0837 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 8 Jul (MENA)—Seven terrorists were hanged this morning in the appeals prison in Cairo for attacks on tourist buses and installations in al-Wajh al-Qibli, Luxor, and Aswan in Upper Egypt.

A responsible military court source told MENA the executions started at 0600 and continued until 0930.

The seven terrorists were executed in accordance with the sentence handed down by the Supreme Military Court on 22 April. They are: Bastawi 'Abd-al-Majid Abu-al-Majd; Sa'd Amin Abu-al-Majd Muhammad; Ashraf Sa'id 'Abd-Rabbuh; Darawi Muhammad Ibrahim 'Abd-al-Muttalib; Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahim Radwan, alias Ahmad 'Abd-al-Ghani; 'Abd-al-Hadi al-Saghir 'Abd-al-'Azim Tayi'; and 'Abd-al-Hamid al- Zamaqan 'Ali.

The Supreme Military Court issued its sentence on 22 April in Case Number 6, 1993, on crimes falling within the jurisdiction of the military public prosecutor. Some 49 defendants, seven of them fugitives, were accused in the case known as the case to strike tourism.

The court unanimously ruled on executing the seven fugitives. It also sentenced three defendants to life with hard labor, eight to 15 years with hard labor, three to 10 years with hard labor, and two defendants to seven years with hard labor. Two other defendants were sentenced to 10 years in prison. Three were sentenced to five years in prison. Two were sentenced to three years in prison, and two were sentenced to two years.

The Supreme Military Court also acquitted 17 defendants who could not be proved guilty.

A responsible military judiciary source told MENA that every legal measure was taken before implementing the sentence. After the sentence was confirmed the convicts submitted appeals, requesting the sentences against them be reviewed on specified dates.

The source said the appeals were discussed and accepted in form, but rejected in substance. He pointed out that the convicts submitted complaints about the implementation of the sentences, and these were presented to the Supreme Military Court, which rejected the complaints. The rejection was approved; the verdict became final, and the sentences had to be carried out. [passage omitted]

Police Arrest 165 'Extremists' in Various Locations

NC0807074093 Paris AFP in English 0003 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, July 8 (AFP)—One hundred and sixty five suspected Muslim extremists were rounded up in upper Egypt on Wednesday [7 July], a day after the arrest of two suspected terrorists in Cairo, police said.

A total of 134 Muslim fundamentalists were arrested in al-Minya province, while 14 wanted in connection with attacks against police were picked up in Abu Tij and 17 more in villages around Dayrut, in Asyut province, police said.

This followed the arrest on Tuesday in Cairo of two alleged leaders of the military wing of the fundamentalist al-Jihad clandestine organisation.

The men, identified as 'Antar al-Zayyat and Yasir Shahbun, were alleged to have received guerrilla training in Iran and to have been involved in the killing of three policemen in Cairo in January, along with several petrol bomb attacks against police vehicles, which injured four.

Meanwhile the pro-government AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper said in its Thursday edition that seven death sentences passed by a military tribunal on April 22 against fundamentalists involved in attacks against tourists were expected to be carried out "within hours".

A total of 21 death sentences have been passed by military tribunals in Cairo and Alexandria since last December. Two have been carried out.

Eritrean President Arrives in Cairo 7 Jul

NC0707210593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1235 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Jul (MENA)—Eritrean President Isayas Afewerki arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a visit lasting several days. During the visit, he will hold talks with President Husni Mubarak on a number of current African and international issues.

Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi was on hand to received him at the airport.

UN's Butrus-Ghali Rejects Double-Standard Charges

NC0707162793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1240 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Jul (MENA)—UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali has denied allegations that the United Nations is pursuing a double-standard policy that helped create the present chaos around Bosnia-Herzegovina. He affirmed that the organization treats all issues equally.

In an interview with AL-MUSAWWAR magazine that will be published Friday, 9 July, Dr. Butrus-Ghali said: Although the United Nations has not achieved the basic goal concerning the future of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Angola, its success in other crises, like El Salvador and Cambodia, should be recorded.

Dr. Butrus-Ghali affirmed that the United Nations will continue to make efforts to resolve the issue of Bosnia-Herzegovina. He remarked here that it is hard to compare the different issues and how they are managed. He added that his recent contacts with major states will help secure the necessary troops to enforce the UN Security Council resolution on setting up safe havens in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He pointed out that the situation could have been different if the United Nations had obtained enough troops to protect Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Dr. Butrus-Ghali told AL-MUSAWWAR that Western states do not monopolize the UN Security Council resolutions. What about those states that call for a solution? Why do they not shoulder the burden of resolving the issue of Bosnia-Herzegovina? Why do they not contribute their troops to protecting war victims? Why do the richer states among them not offer financial assistance to rescue Bosnia-Herzegovina victims, he asked.

Dr. Butrus-Ghali pointed out that with the exception of Egypt and Jordan, no Arab or Muslim state has contributed to the international force in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He added that Arab and Islamic countries have offered no financial support despite his appeal to the Islamic Conference Organization during the OAU summit in Dakar a year ago. The summit suggested that a special fund be set up to help Muslim war victims in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Responding to a question on his refusal to use military force in Bosnia-Herzegovina or to lift the arms embargo, he said that it is the UN Security Council that decides these matters. It is not up to the UN secretary general to accept or reject resolutions, he emphasized.

Touching on the situation in Somalia and the criticism associated with the UN role there, Dr. Butrus-Ghali denied that the UN forces in Somalia had attacked a peaceful civilian demonstration. He reiterated that the UN forces are only enforcing Resolution 837 on disarming the Somali factions and militias. He remarked that the resolution applies to all and will take a long time to enforce. He also said that if Aidid—who killed 23 UN troops—is arrested, the necessary measures will be taken against him in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions.

Touching on the Lockerbie issue, the UN secretary general pointed out that he is on constant contact with the Libyan authorities in an attempt to find a solution to the crisis that is acceptable to all parties and is compatible with international resolutions. He hoped the issue would be resolved soon.

Asked about the diminishing UN role in view of the U.S. control on it, Dr. Butrus-Ghali said that this assumption is not true, because the UN role is now bigger than it has ever been. He pointed out that the resolutions that the UN Security Council issues are not made exclusively by U.S. votes. Resolutions require a majority of nine votes as well as the absence of a veto by a permanent member, he explained.

Commenting on the causes underlying the phenomenon of terrorism, Dr. Butrus-Ghali said that terrorism is a new phenomenon in its present form. He added that being a worldwide phenomenon, collective measures should be taken through the United Nations to confront terrorism. He noted that certain measures, which he refrained from disclosing, would be adopted in the coming months to confront terrorism.

Replying to a question on the resumption of Iraqi oil production, he said that there is a positive development in this connection and that it has been agreed to resume talks on Iraqi oil production in New York on Wednesday.

The UN secretary general highlighted the importance of the African summit that was held recently in Cairo. He noted that the summit reflected a powerful will and an African solidarity, not only at the continental level, but at the international level as well. He added that there is close cooperation between the OAU and the United Nations, particularly in connection with African issues.

Al-Sharif on Relations With United States

NC0807062093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1232 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 7 Jul (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al- Sharif stressed that there are forces that do not want to see Egypt play a major role in the region, but he said there is no cause to worry "because we are mobilizing the nation's forces to confront terrorism and extremism."

In an interview with AL-MUSAWWAR to be published on Friday [9 July], al-Sharif said that some Western media have exaggerated the terrorist operations that took place against some tourists and blown them out of proportion.

The information minister described Egyptian-U.S. relations as very good, stressing that some American writers who are criticizing us have no effect whatsoever on these relations.

He said that a number of Western papers have published positive articles that showed understanding of the situation in Egypt to the extent of defending the government and the police in confronting terrorism and the activities of the extremist groups and of noting that the Western media has exaggerated the volume of extremist actions in Egypt. [passage omitted]

In reply to a question on the stand taken by the U.S. media which are supporting some of the extremist leaders such as 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, Safwat al-Sharif said: This is not the stand of the United States or its administration. We have to differentiate completely between some U.S. media in the way they deal with issues and the U.S. Administration's position so as not to make wrong analyses.

He reiterated that there is no media plot and that such a plot will not come into existence unless there is a political plot, because the media reflects policy. He added: There is no political plot against Egypt or targeting of Egypt. The existence of some media excesses does not mean that there is a plot.

He added that confronting terrorism will achieve stability because some international tourist companies are exploiting the images of terrorism and enticing tourists to go to certain countries.

He asserted that Egypt is working to establish a vast media production base that will provide the base for great and unique productions, stressing that this base will be established on economic and social criteria that will enable it to enter the competitive world. He added that this plan is reflected in the first stage to build 14 studios on 2.5 million square meters in Madinat Sittah Uktuber with a $10 million grant from Japan.

The information minister went on to say: We have reserved an orbit for the Egyptian satellite that we intend to build which will be called the "NileSat." We have started preparing the relevant charts and studies.

Writer Urges 'Equal Treatment' of Terrorism by U.S.

NC0807080993 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 30 Jun 93 p 1

[Article by Chief Editor Jalal Duwaydar: "Equal Treatment"]

[Text] We condemn the U.S. attack on Iraq because we care about the fraternal Iraqi people, who suffer inside and outside the country. We reject seeing any country, be it Iraq, Israel, or Serbia, exercising terrorism against other countries and peoples. If the influential and dominating countries in the new world order could punish and deter acts of terrorism that target their own interests, we hope their conduct is based on evidence, not suspicion. We also hope this punishment includes all countries that exercise and sponsor terrorism and commit crimes that are a disgrace to humanity. An example comes with events in the occupied Palestinian territories and against the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, who are the target of a barbaric war of annihilation before the eyes and under the noses of the United States and the European countries that raise insincere slogans about international justice and human rights.

Truly regrettable is that many of those who commit terrorist crimes against peoples and who defy principles, values, and international resolutions are being coddled and winked at, while enthusiasm is mounting to use missiles and destructive weapons against other parties such as Iraq. I am not trying to acquit the Iraqi regime of the insane criminal practices demonstrated by its invasion and occupation of Kuwait, but justice and principles require equal treatment of other countries and regimes that are no less barbaric, brutal, or insane than this regime. This is what Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa called for in his comment on the U.S. attack.

The Iraqi regime has erred against its country, people, and the entire Arab nation by committing the crime of invading Kuwait, which was the direct cause of a foreign presence returning to the Arab region to protect interests and confront threats, invasion, and occupation. The fraternal Iraqi people are paying for this error by being subjected to the most unjust and inhuman practices by a ruling regime that plagues the Iraqi people and drinks from the same cup of terrorism and violation of dignity that was the slogan of the aggression on Kuwait.

Under the new world order, which is governed by a single power, the United States, and following the collapse of the Soviet Union, we look forward to seeing justice and the slogans of liberty and human rights become a reality governed by principles and values. For now, Washington's stances on terrorism, against which its President Clinton is launching war, must be indivisible. The protection given by U.S. agencies to some leading figures in international terrorism and the access given by the U.S. and European media to these figures' statements instigating acts of sabotage, destruction, and murder arouse suspicions about the credibility of Washington's policy. This feeling makes us and the rest of the world, the target of this terrorism, tell the U.S. Administration: When I listen to you I believe you, but seeing what you do makes me wonder. [Egyptian proverb]

Baghdad Strike Compared With 'Abd-al-Rahman Case

NC0807071093 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 30 Jun 93 p 3

[From the "Good Morning" column by Sa'id Sunbul]

[Text] Iraq has become the favorite target for the United States. Whenever any U.S. president wants to vent his anger or score some points that may boost his popularity ratings, he orders a missile attack on Baghdad. This is what former U.S. President George Bush did in his last days in office, when he ordered a disciplinary strike on Iraq using the excuse that Saddam Husayn refused to comply with UN resolutions, insisted on allowing Iraqi flights in the no-fly zone, and prevented UN experts from inspecting military sites. This is also what current U.S. President Bill Clinton did when he ordered a missile attack against Baghdad in retaliation for a conspiracy in which the Iraqi intelligence participated to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush during his visit to Kuwait in April.

In justifying the two raids, the purpose was to discipline Saddam Husayn and accelerate his downfall. But Saddam remains on his seat. He even made sure after each raid to appear on the television screen with a sarcastic smile on his face, while Iraqi mothers were shedding tears for the innocent civilian victims who lost their lives in these raids. The strikes undertaken by the United States against weak and vanquished Iraq raise several questions. Under what right is the United States carrying out these disciplinary strikes on an independent and sovereign state, and who gave it this right? What is happening is extremely serious and sets a new precedent in international relations. In the past, the United States relied on the UN and the Security Council to obtain the green light. But in the recent raids against Iraq, the United States did what it wanted to do first and then informed the Security Council of the matter later. By doing so, it stripped the Security Council of its role and powers and turned the UN into a flag that it could raise when necessary and drop whenever it wanted. Furthermore, on what basis did the United States indict Baghdad and, consequently, decide to strike and discipline it?

It was reported that a group of terrorists were arrested in Kuwait and charged with attempting to assassinate Bush. It was also said that the U.S. investigators ascertained that the accusations were valid. The question is: How could they confirm the validity of these accusations if they did not listen to the accused party; that is, the Iraqi intelligence? And how could the United States indict the defendants at a time when their trial is still in progress in Kuwait?

What the United States did in Iraq is in complete conflict with its position at home. In the case of Iraq, it indicted the defendants without trial and considered the results reached by the investigators adequate to incriminate Iraq, and hence came its verdict to strike at Iraq. In the meantime, although the U.S. investigators have incriminated Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman and have accused him of forgery and lies, charges that are enough to put him in jail or expel him from the country, the U.S. authorities have stated that they cannot touch him unless there is a court order against him. Could anyone explain these conflicting stands that deal with justice in two different ways and standards and that completely contradict each other?

Writer Terms U.S. Action in Iraq Illogical

NC0807075093 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 29 Jun 93 p 2

[From the "Kaleidoscope" column by Ahmad Bahjat: "The Donkey and the Saddle"]

[Text] The U.S. raid on Baghdad has roused a wave of public anger in the Arab world. The following Egyptian proverb applies to this story: "He could not hit the donkey, so he hit the saddle."

The saddle here is the Iraqi regime. The donkey is the Serbs' actions and barbarity in Bosnia.

This proverb is used to describe someone who is afraid to take a particular action and opts for another one instead. The Egyptian foreign minister expressed this position wisely and tersely when he asked: Where is this decisiveness? And why are the Serbs' crimes being ignored?

The fact is that the recent U.S. action of hitting Iraq and its previous action of intervening in Somalia were what is called a fiasco.

It appears that President Clinton is facing worrisome internal problems and therefore needs a theatrical action outside the country to divert Americans' attention from their problems temporarily. Regardless of the objective of the military strike, it surprised the world and appeared to lack any logic. It has added nothing to the credibility

of the new world order, but, on the contrary, has demolished whatever credibility it had left.

There was more need for a U.S. intervention in the massacres of Muslims in Bosnia. But the United States has not exerted enough effort to resolve the Bosnian problem, has left thousands of children to be massacred each day, and has rushed to hit Iraq for purely personal reasons.

The reason given by the U.S. President to justify his attack on Iraq was the existence of irrefutable evidence about an attempt to assassinate Bush with bombs and explosives manufactured in Baghdad. This is the charge. The U.S. President described the attempt to assassinate Bush as a vile action. He had already warned Iraq against harming the United States, its policy, or president. Then statements began to come in about how the missiles that hit Iraq from the Gulf were programmed to hit the Iraqi intelligence service center. But then it became evident that the missiles had hit civilians unintentionally. The whole operation was described as fighting terrorism. This is the potpourri that the United States is selling nowadays.

Editor Analyzes Motives for Strike on Baghdad

NC0707202593 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 2 Jul 93 p 12

[Column by Chief Editor Mursi 'Atallah: "From Friday to Friday" on the "Weekly Meeting" page]

[Text] I think that no one can really tell the motives of the retaliatory strike the United States recently mounted against the Iraqi intelligence headquarters on al-Mansur Street in Baghdad, without a second reading of an old file about U.S. targets and objectives in the region. This file will allow one to learn the secret behind the priority Washington gave to the Middle East region when it comes to speed in coping with certain regional conditions and changes, compared to the lukewarm, indifferent attitude shown toward conditions and changes in other parts of the world.

Reading this old file can answer many questions puzzling the Arab citizen about the lack of American credibility in dealing with world issues with a uniform criterion—something some of us imagined would happen spontaneously under the umbrella of the so-called new world order, on top of which the United States sits undisputed.

I say this as I share with many others in expressing grief and regret that Washington employed the raging bull approach with Iraq, while it resorts to lenient approaches with others—approaches that start with loving and pampering words for Israel and culminate in denunciations and reproaches for the racist Serbs who trampled international and human rights charters with their boots. But what will remorse and sorrow do when they are all incapable of forcing Washington to apply standard criteria to everyone!

As a superpower, the United States of America has an established, unchanging, and invariable strategy no matter how deep world changes might be!

To state it more clearly, the United States has a supreme strategy for the Middle East. To serve this strategy before the fall of the Soviet Union, Washington pursued tributary strategies that served the main strategic goal. Decimating Soviet influence in the region and maintaining Israel as a supreme and deterrent power was one of these tributary strategies.

Now that the Soviet Union has declined, I do not think that the U.S. supreme strategy in the region has changed just because it is no longer a necessary strategy to badger the Soviet Union. Washington's supreme strategy is still the same!

The course of the tributary strategy on the Soviet Union might have been pointed in a different direction, toward a new enemy the Americans imagine poses a threat to their supreme strategy. I recall here some hints that were promoted in recent years, after the collapse of the Soviet Union, and claims that Islamic fundamentalism represents a threat to American interests.

We might also say that the changes that occurred no longer justify efforts to maintain Israel as an absolute deterrent power, but without touching the supremacy that guarantees its security!

It is wrong to imagine that striking at Baghdad with missiles was merely an attempt to discipline or intimidate its ruler, because this could have been achieved without having to use intercontinental long-range missiles.

It is equally wrong to limit our interpretation of the American strike to America's desire to scare anyone who contemplates harming one of the leaders of the state that sits at the controls of the entire world.

All these, in my view, are secondary goals that serve to provide the media justification that covers the strategic goal.

It is my belief that the United States has had two strategic aims in the region from the time it woke up to find itself a super power and realized the vital importance of the Middle East as a whole.

I don't believe that any changes in the international arena or U.S. Administrations could have an effect on these two aims, which are:

1. Continued possession of all the keys to strategic control of the region.

2. Continued control of the oil resources, from the policy of production to even the simple policies of pricing and distribution.

Any U.S. behavior toward this region, regardless of how reckless it sometimes looks or how cordial and flattering

it appears at other times, could only be understood or explained within the context of these two aims.

We cannot understand or explain this U.S. enthusiasm about a crime that has not been completed and a charge that has not been proven except from the perspective of these two aims.

Using the same criteria, we cannot understand or explain the intentional tardiness in the expected move to push Israel toward more flexibility at the negotiating table unless we read these two aims well, although we accept that Washington now has an interest in the success of the peace process but is not in a hurry, as we are.

Let us go farther and read again the file on U.S. policy in the region, as this will help us understand more quickly and emerge from the clouds of perplexity and the hysteria of wringing our hands in amazement and surprise.

The United States has always sought to deepen the regional contradictions and even to add new ones whenever possible.

If some of us think that the strength of the Zionist lobby in the United States is the only reason for this U.S. bias on the side of Israel since the latter's establishment, then we lack understanding. If the majority of us are convinced that Washington is working to strengthen Israel so that it will be a mere deterrent force in U.S. hands, then we lack understanding here, too.

We—and Israel too—should have realized that this U.S. behavior is not caused by love for Israel or by a deep-rooted hatred for the Arabs but is one that falls within the context of a more comprehensive aim, namely that of deepening the regional contradictions in the area so as to serve the supreme U.S. strategic aims.

Those who might be shocked by this fact or might think that it is some sort of excessive intellectual and political thinking are forgetting that the creation and deepening of regional contradictions has been one of the aims of U.S. policy in the area.

The United States used all possible means to create a regional contradiction between the Arabs and Turkey. It tried this in the fifties when it opened the file of Iskenderun between Syria and Turkey, so that armies were even massed on both sides of the border. Then came the unity between Egypt and Syria in 1958 to achieve a balance that was not to Washington's liking and hence it constantly sought to abort it. Then there was an attempt a few years ago to escalate the regional contradictions between the Arabs and Turkey over the water problem and the covert encouragement to Turkey to build dams on its territory; the least that can be said about that is that it represented aggression against the share that Syria and Iraq have in these waters.

The United States—lest we forget—played a major role in creating and deepening the regional contradiction between the Arabs and Iran, one time in the name of ethnic conflicts and another in the name of the Shatt al-'Arab waters or the disputed islands in the Gulf. The eight-year war broke out. It bore evidence of the U.S. role in feeding it, to the extent that the United States armed the two warring parties, either directly or indirectly, and supplied each side with the information that would enable it to strike at the other. That represented the epitome of using all means to serve the supreme aims and intentions.

The details of the U.S. role in encouraging Saddam Husayn's foolishness and arrogance in the crime of invading Kuwait on 4 August 1990 have not been revealed yet, though some of the evidence is stirring deep suspicions and giving credence to our view that the creation and planning of regional contradictions are tools serving the supreme U.S. strategic aims.

The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait was the apogee of the tragedy because it achieved a regional contradiction that has automatically created severe and unprecedented Arab contradictions.

This was followed by the breakdowns, the majority of which were in favor of America's supreme and marginal goals at the expense of the Arabs, now and in the future, and more gravely at the expense of Arab divisions and humiliation!

This does not mean that the conspiracy theory is true or that we are targeted and powerless. This would be an impermissible simplification of facts and an acquittal of those who through their foolishness and stupidity enabled the United States to achieve its goals. It is the U.S. right to plan, identify its goals, and use its ambassador to Iraq to deceive the peacock [Saddam Husayn] and lure him to the trap. This could have been avoided had some of our rulers been ready to read history, consult with experts, and not monopolize decision-making without referring to their people on such crucial issues.

In order to avoid self-flagellation, it is our right to say that these attempts to lure some Arab states and use them as a tool to spread regional conflicts were tried several times with others, who were wise enough and had the strategic outlook to nip these attempts in the bud. At this point, I do not want to mention names or identify these attempts so I will not be accused of bias in favor of Egypt and its nationalist leaders.

I will permit myself to say that this punitive strike is part of the U.S. plan to deepen regional differences. Someone might ask me: Where is your proof?

My answer is that the proof is not based on papers, documents, or recordings. It is based on mere conclusions and reflections that I seek to link with the U.S. supreme strategic interests. The U.S. monitoring agencies have definitely picked up these calls reiterated in some Arab capitals to purify the atmosphere and bypass the invasion's crime and ordeal. More importantly, these calls have increased within Kuwait where the public

opinion is divided between those who support these calls and those who oppose opening any new page with the so-called adversary states.

From the U.S. strategic point of view, and regardless of who is sitting in the White House, such a tendency conflicts with the U.S. interests that are based on increasing and deepening the regional differences.

The plot to assassinate Bush—whether it was hatched by Iraq or by other parties who impersonated the Iraqi intelligence services—was the excuse for a retaliatory strike to deepen the regional differences spawned by the invasion. The coming days will reveal to us many hidden things.

Two remarks remain regarding the Arab and non-Arab reaction to the retaliatory strike:

1. Anger, protest, and rejection of this unjustified U.S. behavior must not blind us to the responsibility of the Iraqi regime for preparing the atmosphere that permitted the freedom of action for the wild U.S. bull which it is not wise to fight or provoke. The Iraqi regime, as long as it remains in power, must revise its media language, which is being used against it as proof of its guilt and as documentation for its condemnation. Arab sorrow and regret must focus on the selfishness of this regime, which continues the policy of planting illusion for the vanquished Iraqi people.

2. The U.S. behavior toward Iraq has a great deal of excesses, exaggeration, and violation of international legitimacy. It raises several questions regarding the absence of credibility in dealing with international issue with one standard, whether regarding Israel and its aggression on the Palestinian people or regarding the Serbs and their racist aggression on the people of Bosnian-Herzegovina.

Whoever sees the picture differently, let him explain his views to us.

Morocco

Saudi Foreign Minister Arrives for Committee Session

LD0707224693 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Excerpt] His Highness Sa'ud al-Faysal Al Sa'ud, the Saudi foreign minister, arrived today in Morocco to head the Saudi side in the work of the joint Moroccan-Saudi committee.

On his arrival at Rabat-Sale airport he made the following statement:

[Begin recording] As a matter of fact, I would like first to express how happy I am to visit this sister country, especially as I am honored to convey a letter of amity and affection from the custodian of the two holy mosques to my brother, His Majesty King Hassan II. I am also happy to meet his excellency the foreign minister. On this good occasion, when the meeting of the joint Moroccan-Saudi committee is convened, we seek a new beginning in the progress of this committee to achieve the objectives desired by the leaders of the two sister countries. We hope, God willing, to be successful in the task with which we have been entrusted. [end recording]

Sudan

Al-Bashir Comments on Relations With Egypt, Other Issues

EA0707203193 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1315 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Council of Ministers, has said that the forthcoming period will witness the devolution of central powers to the states. In his regular meeting with the leaders of the information and press organs, he said that we are making progress in establishing a federal government and building the political organization. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said that transfers would be effected among the provincial commissioners with the aim of giving the provinces an experienced national (?outlook).

His excellency discussed Sudan's foreign relations, saying that the country was endeavouring to develop relations with the Arab world on a new foundation and noting that this step started when relations with sisterly Egypt returned to normal. Al-Bashir added that Sudan's relations with Egypt must be built on a firm foundation as we would like them to be corporate and integral relations. He reaffirmed Sudan's desire to achieve Arab reconciliation and to restore Arab harmony. He said that the visit of Dr. Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih, the foreign minister, to Qatar has affirmed this direction, in addition to strengthening relations with African and Asian states.

His excellency discussed the international human rights conference which was held in Vienna recently. He said some of its effects are regarded as the beginning of a new (?page). He praised the effective role played by the Sudanese delegation at the conference.

Kuwait

Bush Trial Suspect Claims Bomb 'Thrown Away'

NC0707162593 Paris AFP in English 1602 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Kuwait City, July 7 (AFP)—An Iraqi accused of plotting to kill former U.S. President George Bush admitted on Wednesday [7 July] he had been given a suitcase suspected of being packed with explosives but said he had thrown it away.

Ahmad Jabbar, 21, told the state security court he was given the suitcase by another of the 14 defendants, Iraqi Ra'd 'Abd-al-Amir al-Asadi, who has confessed to links with Baghdad intelligence.

Jabbar, whose mother is Kuwaiti, said "I threw it in a rubbish bin because I didn't know what was in it."

Court officials said the suitcase contained arms and ammunition, and police are still trying to find it.

Jabbar said he would have informed on the others if he had known about any plot: "I love Kuwait and would never harm it," he told the court.

Both he and Kuwaiti Salim Jiyad al-Shammari, 22, denied a string of charges, including planning the attack, smuggling explosives and alcohol into Kuwait and harbouring people who had illegally entered Kuwait.

However, they admitted illegal entry.

Kuwait says the 11 Iraqis and three Kuwaitis planned to blow up Bush during his visit here in April.

The United States launched a missile attack on Iraqi intelligence on June 27 in retaliation, killing at least six civilians according to Baghdad.

Kuwait has rejected an Amnesty International claim that the 14 were not receiving a fair trial.

The last of the defendants, Shammari's 30-year-old brother Badr, was to testify later Wednesday.

Badr Shammari said later that he bought smuggled whisky from the accused Iraqis but insisted he had not seen the car-bomb and weapons which were allegedly to be used against Bush.

The court said it would reconvene on July 17 and agreed to allow the families of the accused to visit them in prison and to attend the trial.

Earlier, lawyer Najib al-Wakiyan invited the whole court for lunch, including the judge, the accused and journalists, to celebrate the birth of her [as received] baby two days ago.

The accused were allowed out of their cage and had their chains removed but were kept in a separate room from the others.

French Defense Minister Completes Visit, Departs

Speaks With Counterpart

LD0707204693 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Excerpts] Kuwaiti-French military talks started here today. The Kuwaiti side was headed by Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah al-Salim, and the French side by Defense Minister Francois Leotard.

During the talks, the two sides dealt with issues of mutual interest, in addition to discussing aspects of military cooperation over the coming period and agreeing on forthcoming maneuvers and the joint training program. [passage omitted]

The defense minister also reviewed the security steps Kuwait is now taking to confront all possible actions by the Iraqi side.

Meets Deputy Prime Minister

LD0707193293 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Excerpts] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, the first deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister, this morning met with French Defense Minister Francois Leotard, and the accompanying delegation in the presence of the Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad praised the principled French stances in consolidating Kuwait's independence and security, France's affirmation to continue its technical and military support to the Kuwait armed forces, and its interest in spreading security and stability in the region.

KUNA mentioned that bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest, in particular the developments of the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, were discussed in the meeting. Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad emphasized the importance of supporting Bosnia in order to safeguard its security and stability and called on the international community to support its rights.

On his part, the French defense minister affirmed the need of the Iraqi regime to implement all the Security Council resolutions in connection with its aggression on the State of Kuwait.

Holds News Conference

LD0707191493 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1548 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 7 Jul (KUNA)—French Defense Minister Francois Leotard said here today that the Iraqi regime is regaining its military capability, and said "we are currently recording the facts of the situation."

He added in a news conference held on the occasion of his visit to Kuwait, and in the presence of Kuwaiti

Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Salim al-Sabah, "that we are exchanging views and information on Iraq's regaining of its military capabilities with our friends the Americans."

He said the French-Kuwaiti talks dealt with ways of maintaining security and peace in the region, and the means by which France can help Kuwait in this respect, affirming that France feels it is responsible for the balance of power in the region.

The French defense minister pointed out that France wants to ensure the safety of Kuwaiti territories and the right of the Kuwaiti people to self-determination and commits itself to saying "that we are and will remain together in one trench and will prove that we are faithful in our friendship with Kuwait."

He added that hopes for peace and progress in this region "pass through the state of Kuwait." [passage omitted]

He added that France gets the inspiration for its stance from complete respect for Security Council resolutions, affirming that France is endeavoring to put an end to the threat which Iraq poses to its neighbors, which is represented by the head of the Iraqi regime, and not by the Iraqi people.

The French defense minister talked about the Bosnia-Herzegovina ordeal and said: We feel that sometimes the UN stances are met with some misunderstanding, and it seems as though it is unable to confront the massacres perpetrated against Muslims, and this is frustrating.

He stressed that France is currently in the front line protecting civilians, women, children and the elderly. France has set up safe havens in the Bihac region to protect 300 people and also to protect 400,000 people in Sarajevo. He pointed out that France has suffered casualties as a result of that protection.

He said: In accordance with UN Security Council Resolution No. 836, we have pointed out the possibility of resorting to air raids if the threat to safe havens in Bosnia-Herzegovina persists.

He said his country is opposed to lifting the arms embargo on former Yugoslavia. He said the justification for that is not to open the doors wide for an influx of weapons until the recent opportunity for peace has ended.

He pointed out that France does not want Iran to pose a threat to its neighbors, and added that his country is following Iran's arms-purchasing deals and that there is indeed a need to get rid of weapons of mass destruction.

Departs 7 Jul

LD0807073193 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0656 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Excerpt] French Defense Minister Francois Leotard left Kuwait yesterday evening after a visit lasting one day during which he met with his highness the amir, the heir apparent and prime minister, and the first deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

The French minister held talks with his Kuwaiti counterpart Shaykh 'Ali al-Salim al-Sabah who announced in a joint news conference that Kuwait is studying the signing of an initial agreement to buy French weapons. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Sudanese Foreign Minister Concludes Visit

JN0707143693 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1310 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Excerpt] Doha, 7 Jul (WAKH)—Sudanese Foreign Minister Dr. Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih left Doha at noon today after concluding a four-day visit to the country. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Omani Minister Pays Visit, Discusses Joint Cooperation

Conveys Sultan's Message to Salih

JN0707140593 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, today received brother Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs of the sisterly Sultanate of Oman.

The Omani minister conveyed a message to the brother president from his brother, His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman, on the intimate brotherly relations between the two fraternal states, on ways to enhance them, and on the prospects for expanding brotherly cooperation in commercial, technical, and other fields, in the service of the two brotherly peoples and their joint interests. The message also deals with regional and international developments of mutual concern and interest to the Arab nation.

During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations and ways to enhance cooperation, especially in trade and investment, as well as a plan to build and pave a road linking Oman and Yemen.

The brother president praised the advanced level of Yemeni-Omani brotherly ties, which offer a good example of brotherly ties. He pointed out that signing the Yemeni-Omani border agreement created many new prospects for bilateral ties and joint cooperation.

The meeting was also attended by brother Muhammad Salim Basindwah, foreign minister; Muhammad Basa'd, our country's ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman; and 'Awad Bin-Mahsub, Oman's ambassador to our country.

Holds Talks at Foreign Ministry

JN0707144693 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Official Yemeni-Omani talks were held at the Foreign Ministry today. The session was cochaired by brother Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah and Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs of the sisterly Sultanate of Oman.

The two sides discussed all aspects of bilateral fraternal ties and ways to enhance them. They reviewed the most important vital projects to be discussed at the next meeting of the Yemeni-Omani joint committee.

Attending for the Yemeni side were brother Ahmad Dayfallah al-'Uzayz, Foreign Ministry under secretary for political affairs, and several Foreign Ministry officials. The Omani side was represented by the members of the minister's delegation. The talks were also attended by Muhammad 'Umar Basa'd, our country's ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman, and 'Awad Bin-Mahsub, the sultanate's ambassador in Sanaa.

A meeting was held earlier between Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah and Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah. They reviewed the distinguished fraternal bilateral relations and Arab and world developments.

Interior Minister Discusses Security Problems

PM0707140693 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Jul 93 p 12

[Interview with Interior Minister Yahya al-Mutawakkil by 'Abdallah Hammudah and Hammud Munsir in Sanaa; date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] For the interior minister to talk about protecting freedoms arouses admiration. This is probably attributable to the fact that the present interior minister not only has a security background but is also the head of the Political Department of the General People's Congress (the bigger partner in the ruling coalition). Since security is a problem in Yemen, what are the most important features of the new security policy?

[Al-Mutawakkil] First, it is important to stress the existence of the political will to tackle the requirements of the new phase. And although the coalition consists of three parties with three programs, I feel that there is a consensus inside the coalition to accomplish the tasks of the next phase and tackle its challenges, which will not be easy.

We expect economic recovery within two years, but we must tackle the responsibilities and requirements of these two years by all available means in order to achieve this recovery.

At the security level conditions were unusual during the transitional phase. We can say this in relation to all the other sectors. If you compare security conditions in the southern and eastern governorates or in the northern and western governorates before and after the unity, you will find a huge difference, in the sense that security was weakened during the transitional phase and was exposed to earthquakes and tremors. In the new phase our—all of us in the coalition—rhetoric, aspiration, and wish is to change this state, thus we have actually begun to draw up plans to tackle all security options. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] In the early days of the new government's era an incident occurred in which two U.S. experts were kidnapped, and car theft incidents increased but at a lower rate than before—which is considered a good omen.

[Al-Mutawakkil] That is true. But I do not want to assure you and others that matters will remain calm. I believe that problems of this kind will occur—perhaps more extensively—because of the Army's and security forces' relaxation after the elections were held peacefully, which opened the door to some security disruptions and attempts here and there. Because the perpetrators of these attempts discovered the existence of a state of psychological-security relaxation. These problems may redouble in a month or two, but they are under control. At the same time we are conducting a study of the causes and roots of these problems in order to tackle them, not through confrontation, but by uprooting them—which requires sound plans and cooperation with numerous quarters, like implementing the sentences passed in this connection. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] There is an issue connected with the work of the Interior Ministry and the political security organ, namely the Yemeni Jews' emigration to Israel. A U.S. Jew who was in Yemen some two weeks ago managed to leave Yemen accompanied by 16 Yemeni Jews. It seems that the Yemeni authorities are doing nothing about this issue.

[Al-Mutawakkil] Under the Constitution and the laws in force we cannot prevent any Yemeni citizen—including the Jews—from traveling. And even if we prevent him, he can take legal action and obtain permission to travel. None of these people can be treated differently from other Yemenis.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] I agree with you, but foreign Jews apply personally for passports for Yemeni Jews, because they are simple people and cannot do that themselves.

[Al-Mutawakkil] That will not happen, nor will we allow it. Any Yemeni citizen is entitled to travel. If there is justification for it, we will allow him to travel, ensuring that no one else is behind this travel. This is because the existence of any other quarter behind this travel is unacceptable.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] I have learned that the last meeting of the General People's Congress General Committee (Political Bureau) crystallized a position which does not approve of proposed constitutional amendments. What are the details of this?

[Al-Mutawakkil] Probably what you have learned is not accurate enough. We, of course, support the constitutional amendments but refuse to allow them to be used as a means of pressure and oneupmanship. We want constitutional amendments agreed by all, which serve the aims, and over which all the parties are unanimous in order to eliminate any constitutional ambiguity related to duality in the government system and the development of the democratic system. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] This question is put to you in your capacity as interior minister: Are there any hidden political prisons that are or were secret in which a number of those missing are held?

[Al-Mutawakkil] I am new to the post of interior minister, but as a politician neither I nor others, as far as I know, have seen any evidence of hidden political prisons or missing people being held in them. Thus we regard the missing people as completely lost, and martyrs. However, this issue is grossly exaggerated. [passage omitted]

National Assembly Meets To Discuss U.S. 'Aggression'

Speaker: Nation Adheres to Resolutions

JN0707152293 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] The National Assembly held an extraordinary meeting this morning chaired by Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih to discuss the treacherous U.S. missile aggression against secure Baghdad civilians at dawn on 27 June.

At the beginning of the meeting, Sa'di Mahdi Salih reviewed the dimensions and objectives of the aggressive U.S. schemes and the wicked plots being concocted against the proud people of Iraq to injure their dignity and pride and to weaken their strength and will. He affirmed that Iraq has fulfilled its obligations toward the unjust UN Security Council resolutions. He remarked that in terms of their number and the mechanism of implementation, no such UN resolutions had been issued against any other state except Iraq, beginning with Resolution 660 up to Resolution 731.

The National Assembly speaker indicated that the inspection committees set up by the UN Security Council and the United Nations on the destruction of chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons, which frequently visited Iraq, have gone beyond the bounds of their work. Thus, he said, they have turned into committees for spying and collecting data in the interest of the enemies about everything that takes place in civilian and non-civilian installations, sending it to the United Nations and the Security Council. He said this action is a clear violation of Iraq's sovereignty and international status.

Noting that Iraq is committed to implementing the resolutions issued by the Security Council and the United Nations, Sa'di Mahdi Salih added that Iraq was and continues to be clear and cooperative with all inspection committees that visit Iraq. He said Iraq has extended facilities to these committees so they can fulfill their missions as soon as possible. However, he added, in return for this commitment, the United Nations has not fulfilled its obligations in accordance with its resolutions, especially those concerning Iraq.

Later, the heads of the Assembly's Arab and international relations committee, the legal and administrative committee, and human rights committee explained in detail to the Assembly members the illegitimacy of the use of force by the United States against Iraq.

The head and members of the Assembly discussed how to confront the continued terrorist U.S. aggression against the people of Iraq and the work needed to find immediate and future steps to stop this aggression, abort all conspiratorial plots, and reveal their dimensions and objectives to Arab and world public opinion.

An INA correspondent has said the Assembly will issue a statement later, in the name of the Assembly, on the recent terrorist, imperialist aggression. The INA correspondent said representatives of Arab and foreign television networks, news agencies and the press attended the meeting.

Speaker Issues Statement

JN0707170793 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Message from National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih to President Saddam Husayn; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. It is only wrong-doers that stand as protectors, one to another, but God is the protector of the righteous. [Koranic verse]

Your Excellency mujahid President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve you.

The representatives of the Iraqi people, members of the National Assembly, strongly denounce the treacherous missile aggression against Baghdad at the night of 27 June 1993, which was launched by the U.S. Administration on the instructions of international Zionism. This resulted in innocent casualties among the dear, secure sons of our people in their own houses and the destruction of many houses, in addition to substantial property damages.

His Excellency victorious leader Saddam Husayn, may God protect him: The fresh U.S. aggression against the Baghdad of Arabism contravenes norms and heavenly values and contradicts international law. This U.S. behavior is rejected and unjustified. It was not based on any legal justification, but on lies and fabrications by the lowly ones in Kuwait. The people of Iraq categorically reject these fabrications because they are false and unverified. They were only a pretext justifying the treacherous U.S. missile aggression against Baghdad.

Struggler president, leader of the great people: The sinful aggression against the Iraq of Arabism and glory is considered a glaring violation of human rights and an evident violation of the UN Charter and UN Security Council law. It sets a dangerous precedent in international relations. This U.S. behavior places the international community under the law of the jungle. It sanctions aggression by anyone without requiring any proof of the justifications of the aggression.

This cowardly terroristic action was inspired by brute force seeking to impose its will on others. It proceeded from the law of ability and opportunity promulgated by the United States after it became the only superpower in the world. One day, the consequences of this unjust law will backfire against the United States itself. It alone bears responsibility for the results of most of the crimes committed against others world states, including Iraq.

Mr. President and leader, the U.S. action on the night of 27 June is a flagrant aggression and a violation of the UN

Charter. It is a terrorist act designed to terrorize the people and leadership of Iraq. The Iraqi people and brave leadership will not fear such cowardly acts. Iraq has acquired enough experience and immunity to remain steadfast in facing aggression, relying on God almighty, on the justice and good will that will triumph over the oppressors, and on the strength and unity of its people from Zakho to the sea, which is a sword in the hand of the leader to strike at all aggressive designs against Iraq.

Your Excellency, the president of the Republic of Iraq: The Iraqi people's representatives, the members of the Iraqi National Assembly, denounce and condemn this treacherous and legally unjustified U.S. aggression. They reject all U.S. claims connected with it. They announce that they stand with the great Iraqi people behind their victorious leader Saddam Husayn, may God preserve and protect him. They despise the U.S. claims and the conduct of the killers of children, women, and old people whose hands are stained with the blood of innocent and noble Iraqis from all walks of life. They reserve the right to demand the just rights of the Iraqi people who have come under aggression and to hold the Clinton administration responsible for all the legal and moral consequences arising thereform.

May God grant you success and strengthen you with the love of your people and nation.

[Signed] Sa'di Mahdi Salih, speaker of the National Assembly

U.S. Urged To 'Reconsider' Policy

JN0707194893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1903 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Jul (INA)—The National Assembly has appealed to world parliaments, international organizations, and human rights groups to condemn and denounce the second aggression, prevent its recurrence, and make the aggressor account for it.

In a statement issued today, the Assembly asked the UN secretary general and the UN Security Council president to carry out their duties and shoulder their responsibilities, in accordance with the UN Charter, to protect the rights of a UN member state in order to serve the cause of international peace and security.

The Assembly expressed the Iraqi people's strong indignation and condemnation of this act of aggression by the new U.S. Administration. The Assembly asked the Iraqi people to show further patience and high vigilance to confront all forms of aggression, relying on the justice and legitimacy of their cause.

The Assembly voiced hope that the U.S. Administration will seriously reconsider its current policy and tackle problems that crop up through dialogue and diplomatic means in order to promote the interests of the two peoples and achieve stability in the region and the world.

The Assembly referred to the new U.S. aggression and said the world was acquainted with the aggression carried out against Baghdad by the U.S. Administration, and that many safe citizens, including women, children, and old people were killed by the aggression, and that a huge number of others were injured. The aggression was launched under the fabricated pretext of the attempt to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush while in Kuwait.

In its statement, the Assembly said it is clear that the U.S. aggression against Iraq is unjustified by international law because Iraq has not embarked on an armed aggression against the United States. The pretext provided by the United States is an exception to Paragraph 4 of Article 2 of the UN Charter. It does not allow the use of force in resolving international disputes that may threaten international peace and security. Furthermore, this aggression conflicts with UN objectives and the principles stipulated in Article 1 of the UN Charter.

Baghdad Sirens Sound for 'Suspected Enemy Raid' 7 Jul

JN0707193393 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1927 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen, we have just received the following: A source at the Civil Defense Directorate has informed the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY that the sounding of alarm sirens in Baghdad this evening was the result of a suspected enemy raid. The source said the alarm sirens were sounded in Baghdad for precautionary considerations. We draw your attention to this.

Delegate Notes 'Spirit of Cooperation' at UN Oil Talks

JN0707192793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1856 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] United Nations, 7 Jul (INA)—Dr. Riyad al-Qaysi, under secretary of the Foreign Ministry, has described the first session of oil talks with the United Nations as permeated by a spirit of cooperation, friendship, and professionalism.

In statements to reporters following the first two-hour session of the talks, he said the two sides are working in a spirit of cooperation and that it is significant that the negotiations have started.

Dr. Riyad al-Qaysi, head of the Iraqi delegation to the oil negotiations, said he will stay in New York as long as his presence is necessary for these negotiations. He said he encountered no problems at the first session. The two sides agreed to hold the second session tomorrow morning, Thursday [8 July].

Meanwhile, UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali hoped for successful oil talks between the United Nations and Iraq. This was declared by Joe Sills, official

spokesman for the UN secretary general. He said the oil talks are open-ended and that no date has been set for their conclusion.

The first session of the oil talks between Iraq and the United Nations began at UN headquarters in New York earlier today.

Envoy to UN Speaks on Peace Talks, 'Isolation'

TA0707110793 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 4 Jul 93 p 25

[Report on a telephone interview with Nizar Hamdun, ambassador to the United Nations, by 'Uzi Mahanaymi "this week"]

[Text] I called Nizar Hamdun at his New York office this week and spoke to him on the phone. Hamdun (who answered the telephone himself) agreed to talk to me only after the mediation of a mutual friend and then only laconically.

Later, the friend explained to me that Hamdun's telephone is one of the most wiretapped in New York. Not only are American intelligence services wiretapping it, but even the Iraqis are monitoring their ambassador. Saddam Husayn does not like surprises, and although Hamdun is considered trustworthy, a wiretap was put on his phone.

From the start, Hamdun made it clear that he has definite instructions not to form any contacts with Israelis, including journalists. After that declaration, which was "on the record," he said in answer to my question that he does not totally rule out the possibility of Iraq joining the peace talks with Israel at some stage.

"That issue is very complex," Hamdun said. "It cannot be resolved in a simple way. I could expand on that, but it is difficult for me to talk at length with an Israeli journalist because of my country's official line.

"In reference to Iraq joining the process, you must understand that Iraq is currently in a very difficult situation, so that at this stage at least, the matter is not in the works. Nevertheless, I do not rule out the possibility in the future, although I am only the ambassador in New York and not authorized to discuss that subject."

On Iraq's current situation, Ambassador Hamdun said: "Our interest is to get out of the isolation forced on us. It is our bad luck that nobody is giving Iraq a real opportunity, based on mutual respect, to extricate itself from the situation it is in.

"I believe that in the current situation, we (Iraq) have been pushed into a corner. We have no possibility of getting out of that situation unless the West helps us. The United States is currently overshooting [last word in English]."

Hamdun said that "it is difficult for me to define myself as an optimist or a pessimist about the chances of Iraq returning to the family of nations. As a diplomat, I am a realist. The current situation is most complicated, and it is hard for me at this stage to see the end of the road on which Iraq will be extricated from the isolation forced on it."

Ambassador to Hungary Interviewed on U.S. Attack

AU0707140593 Budapest PESTI HIRLAP in Hungarian 5 Jul 93 pp 1,2

[Interview with Ambassador to Hungary Muhammad Ganim al-Annaz by Gyorgy Szondy; place and date not given: "The Attack Was Military Revenge"]

[Text] The third anniversary of the lightning-war against Iraq and the preceding international embargo will be in August. On July 17, Iraq will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the victorious revolution that only lasted two weeks. Muhammad Ganim al-Annaz, Iraq's ambassador in Hungary, granted us an interview on these matters.

[Szondy] Mr al-Annaz! At the end of January 1993, you still hoped that Bill Clinton would not take over former President Bush's "war heritage" against Iraq. What is your opinion about the continuation of that war now, without a declaration of war?

[Al-Annaz] Unfortunately, the political revision for a peaceful solution, which we suggested, failed to materialize. This led to the use of military revenge as an answer to the alleged planning of an attack against former U.S. President Bush, a pretext unparalleled in international law. It is characteristic of these developments that, according to a BBC correspondent in Kuwait, 16 members of the Kuwaiti court refused the accusations declared on their behalf.

[Szondy] What effects did the missile attack have? Did they succeed in shaking the domestic popularity of the Iraqi president?

[Al-Annaz] On the contrary: Reports by various television networks showed the hatred that this attack elicited among the simple people. In addition, many missiles missed the target. This is how a world famous Iraqi couple of artists died in their bed. Saddam himself left the meeting held in the national security services only 20 minutes before the attack, and this building was allegedly the main target of the attack. The attackers probably had advance knowledge of this meeting.

Regarding international press reactions, the British and the French press, and even the press of the Emirates, condemned the attack. Naturally, the press of the Arab countries also condemned the attack. Unfortunately, the Hungarian press only quotes reports that support the aggression and Foreign Ministry spokesman Janos Herman constantly speaks of aggression, and we often do not even understand it. Perhaps he is talking about the U.S. aggression? A BBC reporter stationed in Egypt said that he did not meet anyone who failed to condemn the U.S. attacks. The reluctance of the United Nations and

the Security Council has also stopped: They support any action against Iraq, almost without any debate.

[Szondy] The embargo is almost three years old. What are the consequences of this embargo? Is it undermining the people's tolerance?

[Al-Annaz] As I have already mentioned, it has the opposite effect. The sufferings and the shortage of water and food caused by the embargo failed to cause dissatisfaction among the population. Everyone can see that U.S. planes are throwing aid packages to the starving Africans and the Muslims in the Balkans, while the "humanist aid packages" sent to us come in the form of unannounced missiles. In his letter to the UN secretary general and to Bill Clinton, the former U.S. attorney genral in the Carter administration, Ramsey Clark, asked to "discontinue the measures depriving the population of food and hospital services, because this violates human rights, and this is one of the most cruel forms of death." He also quotes the UNICEF report, namely that the sanctions cause the death of 80,000-100,000 children under the age of five annually. According to the 1990 statistics, only 4.5 percent of newborn babies were under 2.5 kilograms. This figure increased to 17.6 percent in 1992, or four times as much. The death rate of the adult population also increased three times.

[Szondy] These are indeed sad statistics. Soon, on 17 July, there will be the 25th anniversary of the Iraqi revolution. Can we expect any new political initiative?

[Al-Annaz] Instead of accepting our attempts for coexistence favorably, these attempts were interpreted as our weakness or as successes by the other side. Their air patrols not only violate our national sovereignty, but they often throw incendiary bombs on agricultural cultivations.

We remember the upcoming anniversary with three thoughts. We continue to believe in Arab unity, something that our opponents often succeeded in deceiving. The other major factor is that freedom should be asserted in our legal order and in the elections, in all areas of life. The third thought is perhaps the most important one, namely justice in distributing goods. This is not "egalitarianism," but it definitely means a decrease in big differences. No one should be too rich or too poor either. I stress that there is not any kind of Marxism involved in this goal. Many very rich Arab countries are asking for Western aid, while Arab property worth billions is in the hands of foreign capital. Although all these were timely goals 25 years ago, we can see that foreign interests do not consider other nations' self-determination and justice. Oil is one of the most cruel economic categories. This is the bitter experience of the 25-year-old Iraqi revolution.

AL-'IRAQ Claims 'Clintongate' Scandal Imminent

JN0707160293 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 1 Jul 93 p 1

[Editorial: "The U.S. Double Standards and the Clintongate Scandal"]

[Text] For two years the United States and Britain have been raising an ear-shattering clamor because Libya refuses to deliver two suspects accused of bombing a plane over Lockerbie in Scotland. Washington and London launched an unjust political and diplomatic campaign against Libya in world forums and at the United Nations. They obtained UN Security Council resolutions and imposed unjust blockades to force Tripoli to accede to the demands that the two suspects be tried in the United States or Britain. As officials in the two countries put it, this would achieve justice and preserve the prestige of the two states.

Here we find the U.S. and British policy of double standards at its peak. This policy has become an integral part of their devious dealings with countries that adhere to their options and reject compromising their freedom and the destiny of their peoples.

Bill Clinton launched a completely unjustified and savage attack against Iraq, based on the illogical pretext that Iraq participated in a plot to assassinate moribund Bush during his visit to Kuwaiti territory last April. Clinton made pompous remarks about U.S. prestige, which he said had been dragged in the mud. He described the attack on Bush as an attack against the United States and all Americans.

We want to suppress our emotions when we hear these lies and falsehoods. We ask: Does Clinton really care about America's reputation and prestige? Does he really intend to reveal the facts and ramifications related to the clamor about a plot to assassinate Bush in Kuwait? If the master of the Black House was really sincere in his efforts to find facts and avoid cheap drama and a series of intentional lies, distortions, disinformation, and the premeditated intention to launch a Central Intelligence Agency-plotted aggression against Iraq, he should have asked, or rather ordered, the rulers imposed on Kuwait to transfer the suspects to the United States, to hold their trial there in the same way his government is demanding the extradition of the two Lockerbie suspects.

The U.S. Administration's silence about the Kuwaiti rulers' measures does not mean respect for alleged Kuwaiti sovereignty. It does not mean any appreciation of its agent rulers, who are cheap tools in U.S. designs against Iraq and the Arab nation, particularly the Arabian Gulf region. The United States is well known for its disrespectful dealings, even in matters of protocol, with rulers who are on its bandwagon or who are accomplices in its evil designs.

Those who followed up the interrogation and the show trial of those accused of plotting to assassinate Bush know why Washington refrained from transferring the trial to the United States. The story was so naive and the evidence and the proof so trivial that the U.S. press and media did not hide their displeasure and their rejection of the torture of suspects and the methods used in the interrogation and trial.

Clinton became certain that transferring the trial to the United States, with the anticipated wide-scale media coverage of the trial's legal and judicial basis, would reveal to the world the falsity of allegations aimed at misinforming U.S. public opinion, in an attempt to convince it that there was an Iraqi plot against George Bush.

Therefore, the Clinton administration, which is overwhelmed by various problems and internal economic difficulties, will inevitably face a scandal. The ghost of the Watergate scandal continues to haunt everyone in the Black House. Therefore, Clinton decided to save U.S. prestige by launching a new attack against steadfast Iraq.

We have enough evidence to believe that the "Clinton-gate" scandal is imminent, that anti-Iraq accusations have become an object of ridicule in the U.S. press and on the television networks. Soon there will be more documents to indict the U.S. President, who has fallen into a quagmire of falsehood and charlatanism only six months after occupying the "Evil Office" in the "Black House."

AL-THAWRAH Ridicules U.S. Raid, Kuwait Trials

JN0507132493 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0750 GMT 5 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Jul (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH stresses that those who planned the recent U.S. missile raid on Baghdad have lost twice. First, they revealed the weakness of the U.S. system and, second, they faced denunciation and condemnation both at home and from the entire world.

In an article headlined "And the Trial Is Still Continuing," the paper, mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, adds: The planners of this raid had to defend their action, which turned out to be too poor to convince others, after such decisions had turned into a farce within the United States and elsewhere. The paper wonders: Will the United States influence the current trial in the city of Kuwait, redrafting the indictment and evidence so that the outcome will match the pictures it presented to the Security Council?

The paper adds: Clinton's administration ridiculously played the role of a judiciary council when it issued the verdict and carried it out. It then decided to listen to witnesses in a special Security Council session. The witnesses are the CIA and its special photos, which it called conclusive evidence of the Iraqis' participation in planning the assassination of Bush.

Concluding, the newspaper says: The real trial, that is the trial of the United States for its new crime, is continuing and there is (?no hurry) for a verdict. The suspect is still committing crimes and there is no need for pictures; evidence is available everywhere on earth and the sentence will be passed through world agreement.

Vice President: Economic Future 'Surprise' for Enemies

JN0607160093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1505 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Jul (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and vice president, today received a delegation from the Arab Teachers Union, led by its secretary general Mawlud Zayid al-Tabib.

Ramadan said Iraq's economic future will be a surprise for all enemies and their allies. He added that Iraq's achievements in the past two years, under the blockade, give concrete evidence of a prosperous future.

He further asserted that as a result of their aggression against Iraq and the continued blockade on it, the coalition states and those with them in Hafar al-Batin are suffering from security and economic problems eating into their entities and administration. Their aggressive policy will fail and victory will be for great Iraq, which has the honor of facing the forces of injustice and aggression. Iraq will remain an example of adherence to principles, sovereignty, and independence, he maintained.

Prices of Foodstuffs, Commodities Drop in Local Markets

JN0707140793 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 4 Jul 93 p 1

[By Samir 'Allu and Qays Mannan]

[Text] Several citizens and retail merchants have expressed satisfaction with the obvious drop in the prices of foodstuffs and basic commodities on the local market.

AL-QADISIYAH correspondents toured the major Baghdad markets of al-Shurjah, 'Allawi Jamilah, and al-Sank, the al-Bayya' car exhibition, and jewelry shops on al-Nahr Street, and monitored a drop in the prices of these items.

Our correspondent noticed a reduction in the price of one kg of rice to 14 dinars. The price ran between 20 and 18 dinars the day before yesterday. The price for a 15 kg, al-Faqi brand, can of cooking dropped from 1,200 dinars to 900 dinars, which is the official price set by the Ministry of Trade. One kg of tea dropped from 200 dinars to 170 dinars, while sugar maintained its price of 45 dinars per kg. The official price set by the Ministry of Trade is 20 dinars.

The process of selling and buying cars at car exhibitions stopped, while the prices for spare parts dropped noticeably. For example, the price of a pair of Korean-made tires of the 165/13 size is now 7,800 dinars after running between 8,650-9,000 the day before yesterday. The price of a can of brake fluid is now 190 dinars after running 250 dinars several days ago.

The price of gold had also registered a big drop when this report was prepared. One gram of gold, 24 karat, is now 3,000 dinars but was going for 5,000 dinars at the end of last week. The U.S. dollar exchange rate on the black market ranged between 88-90 dinars at the end of last week. The price of cigarettes also dropped yesterday and the day before yesterday from 230 dinars per carton to 142-150 dinars per carton for the German brand, Sumar.

Prices of other items,such as clothes, matches, detergents, soap, and car batteries, were not affected due to low demand. They either maintained their prices or registered an minimal drop.

Columnist Explains Reason for Scarcity of Newspapers

JN0707133993 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 4 Jul 93 p 5

[Article carried within the "Greetings" column by 'Adil: "The Fact Behind the Distribution and Scarcity of Newspapers"]

[Text] The embargo imposed on our country has affected all aspects of our life and its necessities. The embargo is not confined to food and medicine. Indeed, it has affected everything in our daily and basic life. Among other things, the embargo affected publications and culture. The great scarcity of printing materials and newsprint led to a reduction in the amount of publications, including our local newspapers. Consequently, the number of issues of these newspapers and their pages were reduced. This reflected negatively on the distribution of these publications, especially newspapers. Facing this reality, the National Company for Distribution and Publication had to reconsider its distribution list for Baghdad and the governorates. Hence, many newspaper readers and followers felt the obvious reduction in the number of newspaper issues since public demand was not being met.

I mention this because the "Consultations" section in the paper received many letters from newspaper readers and vendors, including the well-known vendor 'Ali al-Zubaydi from a public transportation complex in al-Karkh, and others who blamed the National Company for its unfair distribution of the newspapers. The truth, however, is not what they contend it to be. The fact is that the newspapers find their way to small vendors who sell them at high prices. Some bookshop owners—who are provided with newspapers by the National Company—encourage the moving their shares of newspapers to vendors so they can be sold at high prices despite the scarcity and high demand for these newspapers. Preventing newspapers from getting to unlicensed vendors who sell them at prices higher than the fixed price is the responsibility of licensed bookshop owners and sometimes newspaper printers. When all efforts converge in this direction, this phenomenon will inevitably disappear!!

This is a social and collective responsibility that should be shouldered to overcome this stage our country is facing—a stage aimed at foiling the objectives of the severe embargo imposed on us by the evil and rancorous ones. These are the facts behind the scarcity and shortage of newspapers.

Ba'th Party Official Comments on Situation in Kurdistan

JN0707122493 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 3 Jul 93 p 2

[By Halim Hasan al-A'raji]

[Excerpts] Comrade 'Abd-al-Rahman Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and official in charge of the Ninawah, Dahuk, and Irbil party branches, has said that our people in Iraqi Kurdistan will continue to live in unified Iraq and that their aspirations will continue to represent the aspirations of all the good Iraqis throughout the dear homeland.

This came in a statement to AL-'IRAQ in which he responded to a question on the prevailing situation in Kurdistan under the hegemony and control of the forces of oppression, backwardness, and agentry. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Rahman added: The current situation our people in Kurdistan are living in reflects reality. It not only reflects the bankruptcy of the elements and sides that are behind the continued conspiracy against Iraq, but it also reflects the strength of Iraqi unity, the strength of Iraqi brotherhood, and firmness of the organic and close relations among the sons of the one homeland.

The current situation in Iraqi Kurdistan is a cause of pain and concern for our people there. They have suffered great harm and damage from the gangs of terrorism, bloodshed, repression, and robbery.

They now live under slogans falsely raised by agents and saboteurs who detached themselves from the land of Iraq as a result of treason, just like those lowly Arabs who allowed foreigners to desecrate the soil of pride and dignity. These same slogans were themselves violated by those impudent agents when they ran after the foreigner, panting and begging for his satisfaction, but to no avail. They roam the capitals and big cities of the West, seeking illegal gains at the expense of people who glorify dignity and die while defending it. [passage omitted]

The gangs of agentry and treason in our beloved north have been defeated. They are now placed in a dark corner in preparation for their expulsion, God willing, cursed by people and history. Kurdistan will return to what it used to be in terms of pride, happiness, and love among its sons.

Over 1,000 Kurds Flee Iranian Shelling Since Apr

NC0707191193 Paris AFP in English 1856 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, July 7 (AFP)—Around 1,250 Kurds have fled intermittent Iranian shelling of areas near

al-Sulaymaniyah in Iraqi Kurdistan since April, a U.N. source here said Wednesday [7 July].

The source said the United Nations was trying to rehouse the Kurds in other parts of northern Iraq.

The Iraqi Kurds, who control the north in defiance of Baghdad, say the Iranians have been shelling border areas where rebels of the Kurdistan Democratic Party of Iran (KDPI) have bases.

The KDPI has said they were evacuating the families of the fighters, whom Iran has accused of carrying out cross-border raids.

Clandestine Reports Troop Movement to Marshlands

NC0707151493 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Columns of regime troops, including artillery and heavy armored units, have moved in the direction of the southern marshlands, taking positions on the outskirts of al-'Amarah and al-Basrah marshlands.

According to sources in the southern borders, these units include troops from Saddam Husayn's special guards, who will take positions behind the military sectors to tighten control on the troops and catch defectors from the powerless army.

The sources said the vast numbers of these troops indicate that the regime might launch fresh attacks against the unarmed citizens in the marshlands.

Army Schedules Discharge of Conscripts Born in 1969

JN0707180193 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] In implementation of an order by Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, to discharge conscripts who have completed their military service, conscripts born in 1969 will be discharged as of Wednesday, 14 July. Fighter Staff Lieutenant General Ahmad Ibrahim Hammash, Army assistant chief of staff for administration, told an Iraqi news agency correspondent that reserve conscripts born in 1969, who have completed their compulsory service and have completed their reserve service up to the date of their discharge without instances of absence without leave or desertion will be discharged.

Those with instances of absence without leave or desertion will be excluded from the discharge on that date. Those will be discharged after they perform compensatory service in accordance with the law.

The Army assistant chief of staff said discharging conscripts born in 1969 is within a timetable for a successive discharge of conscripts. Those born in 1970 will be discharged on 6 January 1994. Those born in 1972 will be discharged on 14 July 1994.

Arab League Informed of 29, 30 Jun 'Violations'

JN0307111593 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 3 Jul 93

[Text] Iraq has protested to the Arab League Secretariat the continued provision of facilities by the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait for U.S., British, and French aircraft that violate Iraqi airspace, posing a serious threat to the security and sovereignty of Iraq.

In a letter yesterday to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Iraq's permanent representative to the League said that aircraft were launched on 29 and 30 June from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, carrying out 122 hostile sorties violating Iraqi airspace.

The Iraqi representative enclosed with his letter a list detailing these violations. He asked that the letter be distributed among the Arab member states to inform them of these regrettable facts.

More 'Violations' 3, 4 Jul

JN0707111993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0845 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Jul (INA)—Iraq has informed the Arab League of the continued provision of facilities by the Kuwaiti and Saudi rulers for U.S., British, and French aircraft that violate Iraqi airspace, posing a serious threat to Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

In a letter written yesterday to the Arab League secretary general, Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League said these aircraft continued their violation of Iraq's airspace on 3 and 4 July, taking off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, and that they carried out 90 hostile sorties.

The Iraqi representative enclosed with his letter a list detailing these violations. He requested that this letter be distributed to the Arab League member states.

Rabin Congratulates G-7 for Urging End to Boycott

TA0807100493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has congratulated the heads of the seven largest industrialized countries, now convening in Tokyo, for their decision to call for an end to the Arab boycott against Israel. The prime minister personally congratulated each of the G-7 leaders.

Mr. Rabin said he regards the Tokyo declaration as a turning point and considers it an important step on the way to peace and the improvement of the economic climate between the peoples of the Middle East. In the prime minister's opinion, the decision will encourage companies, factories, and businessmen to invest in Israel.

Beilin Returns From Moscow, Supports Talks With PLO

TA0807062893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin returned from Moscow this morning after holding discussions within the framework of the steering committee to the multilateral peace talks.

Speaking at Ben-Gurion Airport, Beilin said that Faysal al-Husayni had told him that the Palestinians will not boycott the discussions with the U.S. peace team with regard to the document presented by the Americans in Washington.

As for holding negotiations with the PLO, the deputy foreign minister noted that although the Labor party convention had rejected a proposal to hold direct talks with this organization in the past, he would be pleased to be among those initiating a renewed debate on the issue.

Ministers Reject Direct Negotiations With PLO

TA0807085093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Ministers David Liba'i and Hayim Ramon said that they do not support negotiations with the PLO. They were interviewed by Qol Yisra'el in reaction to Hagay Merom's remarks in the Knesset, according to which seven cabinet ministers, including Liba'i and Ramon, are in favor of opening a dialogue with the PLO.

The ministers explained that their opposition to negotiations with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat stems from practical grounds, because at the present time, 'Arafat is incapable of promoting the peace negotiations.

Amman Paper Reports Gaza, West Bank Security Plan

JN0807132993 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 8 Jul 93 p 14

[By Riyad Mansur]

[Text] The Israeli Government has conveyed to the U.S. Administration a plan for security arrangements in the occupied territories prior to presenting it to the Palestinians during the next round of peace talks in Washington. The following are the details of the plan:

I. Internal security:

1. The army and intelligence will be fully responsible for internal security during the transitional period in order to ensure the safety and security of the army and settlers. The Shin Bet will ensure a minimum level of presence within the Palestinian entity.

2. The main task of the Palestinian police force will be pursuing criminal activity and maintaining security—"courts, traffic, licensing, Interpol, and prisons."

3. There should be coordination and cooperation ties between Israeli security authorities and the Palestinian police force in order to "exchange information, specify the sources of danger to internal security, and [handle] sudden crises."

4. "Limited" security tasks will be assigned to the Palestinian authority. These tasks will be expanded when Israel becomes confident that the Palestinians can maintain internal security. "Reference is to a role by a Palestinian intelligence organ."

5. The jurisdictions of the Palestinian police force in dealing with settlers and military men who commit crimes, misdemeanors, or infractions within "the boundaries of the Palestinian self-government area have not yet determined" if the Palestinian police will be entitled to detain or arrest any settler or military personnel for committing a civil offense against a Palestinian within the geographic boundaries of their authority, and whether such a person can be interrogated and sent to court or handed over to the Israeli authorities.

6. Officers "or privates" of the Palestinian police force can be trained in Jordan or Egypt. Israel also offers to train them in its institutes.

7. Israel may begin to gradually withdraw and redeploy its forces in the Gaza Strip through agreement with the other side. The trained Palestinian police force will be allowed to deploy in the Strip prior to their deployment in the West Bank. Israel believes the Palestinian authorities should be able to prevent attacks on it across the border—"infiltration"—and control internal violence. The security authority's experience in dealing with this situation will serve as an example for its future assumption of the security powers in the West Bank.

II: External security

1. There is a relationship between the Israeli military presence in the West Bank and the military security arrangements that will be agreed upon with the Arab countries.

2. The Israeli military presence in the West Bank should secure Israeli control of borders, bridges, ports, and airspace.

3. Positioning of the Israeli forces

a. Land forces:

- During the first year of implementation of the transitional period, the Israeli forces will be relocated to two major positions, the first to the slopes of the West Bank hills to the east of Ma'ale Adumim settlement east of Jerusalem, and the second to the northern and eastern slopes of al-Samirah mountains near the Mehola settlement in the Jordan Valley, north of the Dead Sea.
- The positioning in the Gaza Strip will take place in the Qatif area and will act as a buffer between Israel's southern borders and the vast demilitarized Sinai area. This will enable the Israeli forces to control the Mediterranean, check any infiltration from the sea, and will decrease friction between the inhabitants.

b. Early warning and air defense stations.

- Early warning and air defense stations will be positioned all along the chain of hills in the West Bank. These stations will be gradually reduced.
- Long-range antiaircraft missiles, electronic warning networks, AWACS, and satellites will all be (?positioned) within Israel.
- The army will continue to deploy radar and sensitive equipment to detect low-flying aircraft and helicopters coming from the east.

4. There is a big difference between the West Bank's external security situation and that of the Gaza Strip. The Gaza Strip is practically isolated and surrounded by Israel from the north and the East, by the Mediterranean from the West, and the Qatif settlement and Egypt from the south, not to mention that the Egyptian Army is not allowed to deploy within a 120-mile range from the Israeli borders. Based on this premise, Israel has no pressing needs to deploy its army on the southern borders of the Gaza Strip.

As for the West Bank, the situation there is different because it is Israel's narrow waist (9 miles from Qalqilyah to Netanya), because the West Bank is only 42 miles wide from the Green Line to the Jordan River, requiring one to two hours for the Israeli ground forces to be in place, and three minutes for the air force, not to mention that the nature of the terrain in the Wst Bank provides Israel with effective defense possibilities with the al-Samirah mountain chain, which reaches up to 4,200 ft. in height

III. Border modification:

1. Significant, not minor, modification of the green borderline with the West Bank. Israel wishes to annex the following area (between 6 and 15 km) along the Green Line of 1967, including greater Jerusalem, and up to Nabulus mountains, or the Samaria mountains, and around the hilltop of (?Gablbuh) settlement, for the following reasons:

a. The area contains more than 70 percent of settlers who will be taken in by Israel.
b. To strengthen ground defense on the mountain range.
c. The area contains reservoirs of ground water.
d. To widen the airspace over Ben Gurion International Airport.
e. To widen Israel's narrow waist between Qalqilyah and Netanya.
f. To widen the Jerusalem corridor and strengthen Jerusalem defenses.

2. Keeping the area to the northwest of the Dead Sea under Israeli sovereignty to improve early warning and strengthen defensive capabilities. The area will become part of the state's secure borders.

3. In return, the Palestinians will be given:

a. A corridor between Gaza and the West Bank.
b. Free zones in the Israeli airports and ports.
c. Certain Arab villages captured in 1948, such as Umm al-Fahm, will be given to the Palestinian entity.

4. These changes will probably mean that 1,000 Palestinians will be incorporated into Israel unless they prefer to have their houses linked to the Palestinian territory inside the Palestinian entity.

IV. The third party:

Israel rejects any presence of a third party or third parties (the United Nations, the United States, multinational forces, neighboring Arab parties) whether in the form of troops or observers. The reason for that position is as follows;

1. The presence of these parties may determine the future sovereignty over the territories.

2. These parties may lose their operational ability to preserve security (UN forces in south Lebanon are an example).

3. The impartiality of these forces may not be guaranteed, because of their connections and self-interests.

4. These parties may prevent the establishment of direct Israeli-Palestinian security and economic arrangements.

'Terrorist' Receives Life Sentence for Bombing

TA0707194393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] The Ramallah military court today handed down a life sentence to Khalid Da'ud al-Azraq from the Ayda refugee camp near Nabulus. He was convicted of planting a bomb in the Mahane Yehuda market in Jerusalem approximately three years ago. One Israeli citizen was killed, and 15 others were wounded in the ensuing explosion. Al-Azraq was also convicted of planning another attack in the same market. In that case, he sent his wife to plant the bomb, but the woman was killed when the bomb exploded while she was handling it in the market's toilets. The terrorist was also convicted of carrying out several attacks against the security forces in the territories.

Arab Murdered in Gaza; Israeli Wounded Near Jerusalem

TA0707201393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] This evening 40-year-old Jamal 'Assuq was murdered in Gaza. He was apparently suspected of having collaborated with Israel. Masked men shot him on Gaza's main street.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that an Israeli citizen was slightly wounded by an acid bottle thrown at his car in the village of al-Jib north of Jerusalem.

Member of Red Eagle Squad Killed in Rafah

TA0807143593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Samir Sha'th, a 23-year-old member of the Red Eagle squad, was killed in Rafah this afternoon. Rafah residents told our correspondent Moti Amir that the fugitive, who has been on the wanted list for the last year, was killed by the security forces. His body was collected and taken for burial.

Officer Reports 'Steep Drop' in West Bank Violence

TA0807101393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] The security forces in Judaea and Samaria have captured 114 wanted men since the beginning of the year, and the list of fugitives now comprises 57 names, most of them Fatah activists.

This was revealed by a senior officer in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Central Command in a briefing to territories correspondents. The officer said there has been a steep drop in the number of violent incidents in Judaea and Samaria over the past few months, including the hurling of stones and firebombs, as well as firing at security personnel and Israeli citizens.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the senior officer estimated that the return of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] deportees from Lebanon will have an adverse effect on the rate of violent incidents.

Der'i To Forgo Hearing; Indictment to Knesset Soon

TA0807050493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Interior Ministry Arye Der'i decided not to appear at the preliminary hearing this week with Attorney General Mikha Harish, where Der'i's indictment was to be discussed.

Der'i's attorney says his client is backing out because he is convinced he will not get a fair hearing. He said certain people had complained that Der'i was being accorded special privileges for the hearing. These complaints, the attorney said, have pressured Harish to be tough with the interior minister, and, as a result, the hearing will not be fair. The attorney said the charges against Der'i have not been grouped into a single indictment as Harish had promised. He said he has not received all the evidence against Der'i.

The attorney general said in response that as a result of the announcement, no preliminary hearing will be held, and the indictment will be passed on to the Knesset before the summer recess.

King Admitted to Hospital for Irregular Heartbeat

Condition 'Stable'

JN0707153193 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn's private doctor has stated that his majesty, may God preserve him, was admitted to Queen Alia Heart Center at the King Husayn Medical Center this afternoon, Wednesday, July 7, with an irregular heartbeat. His majesty underwent the necessary medical ckeckups, and his condition is good and reassuring, praise be to God.

Our correspondent has the following interview with Major General Dr. Yusuf al-Qusus, director of the Royal Medical Services:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] After his majesty the king has undergone the necessary medical checkups, we would like to be reassured about his health condition.

[Al-Qusus] All checks have been made. They showed that he suffers from irregular heartbeats, a condition called atrial fibrillation. His majesty has frequently experienced such a condition in the past 20 years. His condition now is reassuring and stable. All the necessary medical checkups showed very good results. His heart condition is good, and he does not suffer from any heart disease. Moreover, his coronary arteries are normal; the heart muscle is normal, and the heart valves are normal. We call this condition atrial fibrillation, a condition that affects a normal heart and is not accompanied by any disease. Among the causes of this condition are continued exhaustion, fatigue, overexertion, and tension. These are known causes and factors of such a condition. As was the case on previous occasions, this condition needs treatment for two or three days. It will respond to the treatment and medicines necessary for such a condition. [end recording]

King Interviewed by Telephone

JN0807082693 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0705 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Ladies and Gentlemen: His Majesty King Husayn, may God preserve him, is in good health, praised be God. Amman Radio has just phoned his majesty at the al-Husayn Medical Center.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified Amman radio reporter] Hello!

[Husayn] Hello.

[Reporter] Good morning, Sir.

[Husayn] Good morning. How are you?

[Reporter] God be praised for your safety.

[Husayn] May God bless you.

[Reporter] Sir, we received several phone calls from brother citizens. All want to be reassured about the health of our leader.

[Husayn] May God bless you and all of them.

[Reporter] The brothers say: Hearing him will greatly comfort us. If there is no fear about your health, they are eager to hear the voice of our leader.

[Husayn] God bless you, sir, and all of them. They are always in the heart, mind, and conscience. Man's main objective in this life is to do what he can so that our good individual in this country, Jordan, and the greater Arab homeland, can obtain his full rights and attain such a situation in which he can live proudly and comfortably. God knows what I embrace in my heart for them all. God be praised, I am grateful to them, and I am about to leave the medical center. I have come through this indisposition safely. It is not the first time. It has been the same story several times before, the latest was perhaps two years ago. There seems to have been some exhaustion and fatigue. Such things happen once in a while. But, thank God, my condition is very satisfactory and I am about to leave the center. I would like to extend my great thanks, gratitude, and appreciation to all. May God protect them all. This is what is always important for me. Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. I would like to reassure everyone that everything is alright.

[Reporter] Praised be God for the safety of King Husayn, who holds his people in his heart.

[Husayn] God bless you all.

[Reporter] God bless you.

[Husayn] My greetings to all members of our big family. God willing, they will always enjoy good health and life. They recommended some rest. Otherwise, everything is fine.

[Reporter] Thank God for your safety.

[Husayn] God bless and protect you. [end recording]

King Leaves Hospital

JN0807105393 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] With God's care and blessings, His Majesty King Husayn left the al-Husayn Medical Center this morning, enjoying good health.

Major General Dr. Yusuf al-Qusus, director of the Royal Medical Services, told our reporter that His Majesty King Husayn is enjoying good health, praised be God. Dr. al-Qusus said his heartbeat became regular but his majesty does not have any heart disease. He pointed out that the period of time his majesty spent in the Center was very short and did not exceed 24 hours. His majesty, he said, can conduct all his daily activities.

'Arafat Says Dialogue With U.S. To Continue

JN0707121593 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] His Excellency Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, left Amman for Tunis at noon today at the end of a visit to Jordan during which he held talks with His Majesty King Husayn and senior Jordanian officials. The talks, described by the two leaders as successful and distinguished, dealt in depth with the various aspects of the distinguished brotherly Jordanian-Palestinian relationship, particularly those related to the Middle East peace process.

Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, the chief of Foreign Ministry protocol, the Palestinian ambassador to Jordan, and some senior officials saw 'Arafat off at Amman International Airport.

In a predeparture statement to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY, President 'Arafat stressed that his talks with His Majesty King Husayn were positive, constructive, brotherly, and practical. He said: The talks dealt with all aspects of work whether regarding our movement in the peace process or our joint movement vis-a-vis the prospects of our common future. He added that these talks laid down the practical and effective bases for a new start on all levels.

Asked how he views the results of the Israeli foreign minister's talks with the Egyptian president, President 'Arafat said he is still unacquainted with the results of these talks and will not be able to fairly assess the results before knowing the details.

Regarding the Israeli foreign minister's statement in Cairo that he obtained the Egyptians' agreement to convince the Palestinians to accept the Palestinian [as heard] document on the joint declaration of principles, the Palestinian president said: We submitted a memorandum to the Arab and European states, as well as the cosponsors of the conference, the Islamic states, and the Nonaligned states, explaining our position on this document. President 'Arafat said this document is not a good basis because it bypasses the terms of reference of the peace process. He added: This Palestinian position does not mean that our dialogue with the U.S. sponsor will stop. On the contrary, we will continue our attempts with them in order to explain our viewpoint.

EC Commissioner Concludes Visit, Departs 7 Jul

JN0707163093 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Manuel Marin, the EC commissioner responsible for Middle East affairs, and his delegation left Amman today at the end of a visit of several days to Jordan. He met with His Majesty King Husayn and Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali. His talks with several ranking Jordanian officials focussed on bilateral relations and the friendship between Jordan and the EC in all fields. The talks also focussed on ways to foster and develop relations between European and Mediterranean countries on both regional and bilateral levels.

The talks with the Jordanian officials also dealt with developments in the current peace process on bilateral and multilateral levels, and the EC role in advancing this process.

In his talks in Amman, the European official hailed Jordan's democratic march and the performance of the Jordanian administrative apparatuses that are responsible for European assistance to Jordan, which totals about $250 million since 1977. He stressed that the EC is very interested in continuing programs in all areas in Jordan, as agreed on in the past.

He was seen off at Queen Alia International Airport by Talal al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs; Husayn Hamami, secretary general of the Foreign Ministry; the charge d'affaires at the Spanish Embassy; and head of the EC mission in Amman.

Media Treatment of King's Dialogue With Senators

JN0607132493

[Editorial Report] All Jordanian dailies on 5 July publish the "text" of King Husayn's address to Senate members at the Royal Court on 4 July, including his remarks on Iraq, as cited in last two takes of second referent item. Amman AL-RA'Y, AL-DUSTUR, and SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic devote their editorials to the king's address, focusing on the domestic issues raised and briefly tackling the issue of Iraq. AL-DUSTUR says at the end of its editorial: "Regarding the stance toward sisterly Iraq, His Majesty King Husayn recalled that our country stood by the Iraqi people and will continue to do so until their affliction is over. Thus we can help them get through the current circumstances until Iraq returns to its nation and world as soon as possible, with its national rights safeguarded in a climate of national reconciliation, democracy, political pluralism, and respect for human rights."

SAWT AL-SHA'B says: "Regarding sisterly Iraq, His Majesty King Husayn stressed Jordan's care for the safety of Iraq and for the unity of its people and territory, emphasizing the continuation of the Jordanian role in supporting and cooperating with it so that it can overcome its predicament and return to its Arab family and nation."

AL-RA'Y editorial makes no mention of the king's remarks on Iraq.

None of the Arabic dailies has been observed to highlight or comment on the king's criticism of the Iraqi leadership as cited in referent item.

On 6 July, all Jordanian dailies publish a PETRA-datelined account of the king's dialogue with the Senate members as filed in first referent item. All papers also editorialize on the king's "dialogue" with them under the

following headlines: "A Lesson in Democracy," Meeting of Truth and Frankness," and "Democracy and National Unity Enjoy Husayn's Protection and Care." All highlight and praise the king's remarks on democracy in Jordan and discuss Election Law and next parliamentary elections. AL-RA'Y editorial says: "What Husayn said during his majesty's meeting with the Senate members is supposed to have settled unjustified arguments and closed doors that should not remain open as keeping them open is meant to undermine every noble stand we took in the past and take now or to cast doubt on our political moves and enlightened interaction with regional and world changes."

In his daily column in the 6 July issue of AL-RA'Y, Tariq Masarwah says the king's meeting with the Senate members "was more than comforting to many circles in our country which had their own apprehensions and concerns during the past few weeks." He describes the meeting as "the beginning of the required national dialogue." Commenting on the same subject, AL-RA'Y columnist Sultan al-Hattab says: "Yesterday we saw a live and rich exercise in comprehensive national dialogue on a hot issue. It is an exercise we hope will be repeated not only with the 'King's council,' that is, 'the Senate,' but several other councils and national bodies."

None of the 6 July Jordanian dailies comments on the king's remarks on Iraq.

Amman Television at 1125 GMT on 6 July rebroadcast the "full recording" of the king's 4 July meeting with the Senate president and members.

Editorial Ridicules U.S. Aid to Bosnian Muslims

JN0707124693 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 7 Jul 93 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "Fattening Sheep Before the Slaughter"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has announced that the United States is responding to the issue of Bosnia's Muslims in a humanitarian way and that his country has extended $345 million in aid to them, something not yet done by the European states.

Mr. Christopher said nothing about the humanitarian way with which Washington is dealing with the issue of Bosnia's Muslims. Considering the massacres being perpetrated against those Muslims and the daily raping of their girls, women, and even children, and in view of the large-scale pressure on them, the humanitarian way here turns into a coup de grace which the United States thinks is the only salvation the international community should provide for those Muslims. The millions about which the U.S. secretary is talking are false figures; we have much evidence proving this. It suffices here to mention one evidence: Nothing of the hundreds of millions of the U.S. dollars the United States and its allies promised for the Iraqis in northern Iraq has reached them. Those allies only isolated those Iraqis from their brothers and left them a victim of two sieges: one continuing against all the Iraqi people in northern, central, and southern Iraq; and another against the Iraqis in the north. If the first comes from the enemies of Iraq, the second—and here lies the irony—is the result of efforts by those claiming to be eager to prevent the suffering of the Iraqis in the north.

The fact that only few million dollars were extended to the Iraqi Kurds in northern Iraq reveals the falsehood of the claims that hundreds of millions were extended to Bosnia's Muslims. Even if we suppose that their claims are true, what good can these millions do if the United States and all its western allies refuse to lift the embargo imposed on the delivery of weapons to those Muslims in order to defend themselves and enjoy the American and European blessings embodied in this humanitarian aid?

Information Minister Comments on Arab Reconciliation

JN0807063293 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English Jul 8-9 93 p 3

[Text] Amman (PETRA)—Jordan is pursuing efforts to heal rifts among Arab countries, and the near future will witness concrete steps towards achieving Arab solidarity, information Minister Ma'n Abu-Nuwar said Tuesday [6 July].

In a lecture at the Arab Youth Forum (AYF) Tuesday evening, Dr. Abu-Nuwar said Jordan will pursue these efforts in line with policies charted by His Majesty King Husayn and in conformity with the principles and goals of the Great Arab Revolt.

In his lecture, which revolved around Jordanian democracy and its impact on the countries of the region, the minister said that the present government is determined to prevent any media offence against other Arab states.

Stressing that the Jordanian press will maintain its freedom, the minister also emphasised that he would introduce measures aimed at reforming or putting right any imbalance or errors in the national press through the Jordan Press Association, direct contacts with the concerned newspapers or through the law.

Dr. Abu-Nuwar said that he was preparing a national information strategy for Jordan that would serve as a reference for media people and researchers.

Referring to parliment, the minister voiced his support for deputies' participation in government because this practice tends to "enhance democracy."

Dr. Abu-Nuwar, however, cautioned against deputies' exploiting their ministerial posts for election or political parties purposes, saying that the "nation's higher interests should be above any other consideration."

The minister expressed his suppport for the one-person-one-vote system, calling for allocating only one deputy for each constituency. He said such a system should help achieve justice and equality.

Saying that the government has not yet discussed the Election Law, the minister pointed out that the present law was prepared in 1928 by the British colonial government and was formulated in a manner that would safeguard the minorities and various groups.

He said that any amendment to the present law should be preceded by consultations among all concerned groups.

Saying that democray in Jordan "matched any other around the world," the minister listed the following eight priciples as the basis for democracy in Jordan:

- Freedom for all under the umbrella of the law.
- Parliamentary democracy, with the people considered the source of all powers and authorities.
- Independent legislative, executive and judicial authorities.
- The right of Parliament to vote down a government.
- Political pluralism in the sense that no single party should monopolise power in the country.
- Human rights should be safeguarded in conformity with the Constitution.
- Free local and municipal government.

The minister said that Israel is the first enemy of the Jordanian democracy because the Jewish state had sought to present itself as the only democracy in the region in order to achieve its own interests.

Other enemies, he said, include factions on the internal front who exploit democracy as a tool to undermine its noble aims.

Students Protest Against School Administration

JN0607085793 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 6 Jul 93 p 3

["Special" to the JORDAN TIMES by Sa'idah Kilani]

[Text] Amman—About 1,000 students Monday [5 July] staged a demonstration at the University of Jordan (UJ) to protest the "manner in which the university's administration deals with the students' council" and demanded the resignation of the university's administrative body.

In front of the clock tower at the University of Jordan, more than 1,000 veiled and bearded students demonstrated against what they saw as the violation of the students' council's basic rights. The student council, which organised the event, demanded that the university allot a budget for the council; that medicine students' issue be handled; and that the council exercise its authorities as stipulated by the law.

"He who forced you to gather here under the heat of the sun is the president of the university," screamed one of the members of the student council amid the loud applause of demonstrating students. "He (the president) has rejected (dealing with us in) democratic means and refused dialogue and our issues are being ignored." Other students also gathered to contest the demonstrators' allegations maintaining it was a ploy to improve Islamist standing at the university.

Head of the students' council, Ma'an al-Khatib, said that all attempts to discuss their problems with the president, Dr. Fawzi al-Gharayibah, ended in failure. He told the Jordan Times that the main problem is Dr. al-Gharayibah's rejection to allocating money to the student council, thus hindering them "of carrying out their activities."

Mr. al-Khatib contended that tremendous effort exerted in the past four months by the council to reverse a decision requiring medical students to repeat a whole year if they failed in one subject. According to Mr. al-Khatib, the university's administration ignored their demands and "advised them not to interfere in academic affairs."

Cabinet Denounces U.S. Senate Statement

NC0707211793 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Statement issued by the Cabinet following its meeting chaired by Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri in Beirut on 7 July; read by Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul—recorded]

[Text] The Cabinet held its weekly session under Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri. At the outset, Prime Minister al-Hariri reviewed the statement issued by the U.S. Senate. After long deliberations, during which the ministers denounced this statement, considering it intervention in Lebanon's internal affairs, it was decided to issue the following statement in the name of the Cabinet:

After reading the statement issued by the U.S. Senate, which contained several positions that show a clear negative attitude toward Lebanon's achievements following the end of the war and the start of the march of peace, the Lebanese Government declares the following:

1. The U.S. Senate's statement conceals a clear attempt to put pressure on the Arab parties participating in the bilateral talks, especially Lebanon and Syria, which have displayed firmness in adhering to Arab rights. The timing of this statement is linked to the obvious Israeli intransigence during the last round of talks and unambiguously reveals the real background to this statement.

2. The Cabinet reminds the United States of its obligations to Lebanon's sovereignty and independence. It cannot help but express surprise at the absence of any initiative by the U.S. Senate to implement UN Security Council 425, which constitutes a main basis for Lebanon to restore its sovereignty over all its territory.

3. The U.S. Senate's position aims to influence the march of detente and peace in Lebanon through its attempt to intervene in the distinguished relations between Lebanon and Syria. The Lebanese Government wishes to clearly affirm that these bilateral relations are firm, distinctive, historic, and legal. They were reconfirmed in the al-Ta'if accord which was wholly supported by the U.S. Government.

4. The background to this statement contains a rejected attempt to cast doubt on the Lebanese legal establishments, which the U.S. Senate knows are the only means to rebuild the state, unite the people, establish security, and preserves Lebanon's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity.

President, Foreign Minister Meet Czech Delegation

LD0707202393 Prague CTK in English 1957 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Beirut, July 7 (CTK)—The Czech foreign minister's personal envoy, Roman Polasek, who arrived here today for a two-day official visit at the head of a Czech delegation met with Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz.

It is the first official delegation of the Czech Republic to visit Lebanon in seventeen years.

Polasek handed to the Lebanese president a personal message from Czech President Vaclav Havel, and voiced the hope that a peaceful and just solution to the Middle East situation would soon be implemented. Polasek asked for Lebanon's support for the Czech Republic's candidacy for non-permanent membership in the United Nations Security Council for 1994-1995.

A common historical experience—a 17-year civic war on one side and communism on the other—as well as encouraging internal developments in today's Lebanon are having a positive impact on the promotion of bilateral relations between our countries, Polasek told journalists after the meeting.

The last Czechoslovak official delegation visited Lebanon in 1973.

Israeli Soldiers Reported Killed in Bomb Attack

NC0807091493 Paris AFP in English 0748 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Tyre, July 8 (AFP)—Guerrillas killed two Israeli soldiers and wounded three others in a bomb attack on an army patrol in southern Lebanon on Thursday [8 July], security sources said.

The assailants detonated the device by remote control as the armoured patrol drove along a road regularly used by Israeli troops near al-Jarmaq in the central sector of the Israeli-occupied "security zone."

The Iranian-backed Hizballah carries out most strikes against the Israelis in south Lebanon.

Soldiers and guerrillas battled for half an hour with automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenades after the blast, leaving an Israeli troop carrier in flames, the sources said.

Around 100 Israeli soldiers set off in pursuit after the attackers fled.

A total of 13 Israeli soldiers have been killed this year in south Lebanon, including four in a "friendly fire" incident in May.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said Wednesday that there had been a flare up in Hizballah attacks on the army and its allied South Lebanon Army militia in southern Lebanon.

[In a related report, (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic at 0845 GMT on 8 July adds the following: "The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] has claimed responsibility for the operation. In a statement issued this morning, it said that at 0630 today, one of its groups attacked and bombed an Israeli patrol, destroying a Merkava tank, and killing and wounding its personnel."]

Mubarak Discusses Regional Issues With al-Asad

JN0707165293 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1635 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Latakia, Syrian Coast, 7 Jul (SANA)—Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, arrived at Latakia Airport at 1500 today.

He was received by President Hafiz al-Asad, Vice Presidents 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Several ministers were also there to receive him: Comrade Muhsin al-Khayr, secretary of the party branch in Latakia; Hasan Rida Shahwan, Latakia governor; and Dr. Mustafa 'Abd-al-'Aziz Mursi, Egyptian ambassador in Damascus.

At 1830, the two presidents held a meeting. On the Syrian side, the meeting was attended by Vice Presidents 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Nasir Qaddur. Attending on the Egyptian side were Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, Culture Minister Faruq Husni, and Dr. Mustafa 'Abd-al-'Aziz Mursi, Egyptian ambassador in Damascus.

Talks Resume in Closed Meeting

JN0707204593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Excerpts] President Hafiz al-Asad and Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak resumed their talks in a closed meeting at 2100 today. The two presidents met earlier at 1830 today. [passage omitted]

Talks dealt with the situation in the region and the peace process. [passage omitted]

Commentary Views U.S. Document, Christopher Remarks

JN0507193093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 5 Jul 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: While the Palestinian side rejected the recent document of U.S. ideas because it ignores the future of Jerusalem and the fate of Israeli settlements, Yitzhaq Rabin strongly criticized Washington and considered its intervention in the peace talks something out of the ordinary. He stressed that Israel will not offer new concessions to the Arabs, saying that it offered a lot and that it is the Arabs' turn to make steps. Rabin did not hesitate to express, in a theatrical language, his disappointment with the results of the 10th round because of the intransigence of the Arab parties, in general, and that of the Syrians and Palestinians, in particular, or so he claimed.

Whoever listens to Rabin's statements would initially think that Israel is serious about pushing the peace process forward despite the fact that so far, and 20 months after the Madrid conference, it has not acknowleged the principle of exchanging land for peace and the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions that deal with settling the conflict in the Middle East.

All efforts have failed to make the Israelis budge an inch from their intransigent stands. They refuse to discuss the issue of Jerusalem, which interests all the Arabs and more than a billion Muslims in the world in addition to the Christian denominations. The Israelis also refuse to evacuate the occupied Syrian Golan Heights or southern Lebanon. They consider the settlements they built in the occupied territories enclaves that are subject to their control. When we realize that two thirds of the West Bank and half of the Gaza Strip were annexed to these settlements and that the settlements isolate the West Bank cities from one another and tear them apart, we clearly sense the farce of self-rule that the Israeli Government wants to impose on the Palestinians—self-rule that is a consecration of the occupation and settlements, an acknowledgment of the legitimacy of the usurpation of Jerusalem, and an undermining of the Palestinian future.

The results of the 10th round raised deep concern among international circles. It destroyed all the remaining hopes pinned on the possibility of achieving tangible progress toward peace.

The European circles, headed by France, did not hide the fact that Israel is responsible for the failure of the 10th round, as well as the past rounds, and that settlement in the Middle East is impossible without recognizing the Palestinian people's rights and withdrawing from the occupied territories.

However, Yitzhaq Rabin, who did not pay heed to all his peaceful promises, is following the steps of former Israeli officials in rejecting peace. Indeed, he considers peace the destruction of Israel's expansionist schemes. He believes that through his misleading statements and acrobatic moves, he can deceive the world and continue to neutralize the international community and loot the Americans' coffers and their weapons' arsenal.

Furthermore, Israeli officials boast that the United States does not, and will not apply any pressure against them. They take precautions by launching preemptive campaigns, like they did with Christopher's recent ideas on the Palestinian autonomy.

Despite the fact that the U.S. secretary voiced impatience and threatened to reconsider the U.S. role, his statements have not specified the party obstructing the peace process.

The Americans know more than anybody else that Israeli is the party that places obstacles and does not abide by the UN resolutions and wants to impose its unfair conditions on the Lebanese and the Palestinians at the

same time. They also know that by insisting on keeping the major part of the occupied territories, Israel is torpedoing, in practice, the fair U.S. role that President Clinton's administration pledged to play.

The Arabs have offered a great deal. They have offered peace and there is nothing greater or more noble than peace. No sane person in the world would expect the Arabs to offer, in addition to peace, the territory to Israel and relinquish their rights, history, and civilization.

The Arabs want an honorable peace, which current generations can accept and which future generations can protect. They do not want suspect deals, which the peoples will reject and which will collapse at the first test. What the Israelis want is suspect deals that would keep occupation and protect the momentum of settlement-building expansionism. This fully contradicts the resolutions and principles of international legitimacy and the substance of the U.S. initiative itself.

Thus, Washington, which thus far has been shyly, and indecisively playing the partner role in the negotiations, is now required to clarify things and establish the bases for the peaceful settlement and the means to translate these bases into timetables and facts on the ground. With the decisive political will, the United States has sufficient means to force Israel to submit to the resolutions of international legitimacy. But, limiting the U.S. role to the role of a postman who offers an idea here, and another there, the United States will fail to advance the peace process. There are essential principles that Israel must acknowledge and abide by, particularly withdrawal from all occupied territories and enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their national rights, including their right to self-determination. Any evasion of these principles will inevitably lead to the collapse of the peace process and Washington's credibility at the same time.

Newspaper Questions Objectives of Ross Mideast Tour

JN0807093193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 8 Jul 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Who's Responsible for Obstructing Peace?" AL-BA'TH says: Something has come out of the Middle East peace process that began at the Madrid Conference, 20 months ago, and whose 10th round ended last week—the clear positions of various parties concerned with that process. The Arabs have left no doubt concerning their sincere and genuine desire to establish a just and comprehensive peace based on the UN resolutions and on international legitimacy and law. Israel, on the other hand, confirmed a great hostility toward peace represented in its intransigent positions, which refuse to comply, genuinely, with the UN resolutions and which stick to the occupation of Arab territories. This, as is well known, led to the failure of the 10 rounds of talks and their reaching a deadlock.

AL-BATH adds: As for the United States, despite its almost complete control of things throughout the world, it very regrettably failed to assume the role it pledged to shoulder and failed to deliver the big promises it made before the Madrid Conference.

AL-BA'TH concludes: From this perspective, the tour by Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator for the negotiations affairs, raises many questions about the true objective the United States is seeking to achieving. Israel is the party responsible for the talks failure, and for the talks to succeed, Israel must unconditionally submit to the UN resolutions. This is the simple equation which may help rescue the peace process from its serious dilemma. Any other intention—Rabin said yesterday that Ross must obtain Arab concessions—will only lead to further complications in the peace process and push it toward new labyrinths, which threaten its complete collapse.

Editorial Decries U.S. 'Double-Standard' Policy

JN0807075993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 8 Jul 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Discussing the United States' role in the Washington talks and its continued double standard policy, AL-THAWRAH says: When Israel succeeds in obstructing the peace talks and in keeping it at square one, it only means that the full partner and the launcher of the peace initiative—the United States—has failed to both fulfill its required role and to rise to the level of the responsibilities it shoulders in a process as serious, difficult, and complicated as the peace process.

AL-THAWRAH adds: When Washington fails to perform its role and fulfill its commitments and assurances, it proves that it is an accomplice to Israel's evasion game. It also proves that it is not a fair partner, a role necessary for the credibility of a super power that pledged to implement international legitimacy. We all know that it implemented that legitimacy very selectively and in a whimsical manner that reflected the true objectives Washington wants to achieve through that legitimacy: to serve as a cover for its strategy in the entire world, and in he Arab region in particular.

Paper Rejects U.S. Senate Recommendation on Lebanon

JN0807095093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 8 Jul 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Intervening in Lebanon's Affairs," TISHRIN says: The Lebanese Chamber of Deputies has replied in strong words to the U.S. Senate's decision regarding Lebanon and Syria's fraternal and pan-Arab role on the Lebanese arena. In fact, the Lebanese deputies did not wait long. They very quickly clarified matters and refuted the allegation made in the

U.S. Congress' decision, which took the form of a recommendation to President Clinton to stop aid to Lebanon. It was clear that the U.S. Congress decision was an Israeli decision, in form, substance, and objective.

TISHRIN says: While Israel tries in the Washington talks to ignore the basic, real, and even the only, problem facing Lebanon; namely Israel's occupation of its southern part, it also seeks to cover its objective to keep the territory in the south by diverting attentions and fabricating unfounded, illusionary problems. It tries to push what it calls problems to the limelight and intervene through the U.S. Senate, which is under the Zionist lobby's influence, in Lebanon's domestic affairs. This means that there is indeed aggression against Lebanon, represented in questioning the legitimacy of the Lebanese Government and the constitutional Lebanese institutions, particularly the Chamber of Deputies, which was elected democratically by the people, as witnessed by the entire world, especially political quarters and official and parliamentary parties.

TISHRIN asks: What right does the U.S. Senate have to intervene in Lebanon's domestic affairs? Who has authorized it with such a role for the benefit of Israel and those who conspire with it against Lebanon's legitimate and constitutional institutions and official authorities.

The paper says: Disputing Lebanon and its fraternal and pan-Arab ties with sisterly Syria serves only Israel and its schemes that seek to devour South Lebanon and strike at the march of reconciliation, agreement, reform, and peace in Lebanon. Therefore, when the U.S. Senate fails to demand sanctions against Israel for refusing to implement Resolution 425 and demands sanctions against Lebanon, it is offering a reward to the Israeli aggressor for his aggression.

The paper concludes: Aiding Lebanon cannot be done through siding with Israeli policy or seeing events and things through the hostile and expansionist Israeli perspective. Lebanon has made its sincere and courageous national decision. It is very much interested in going along with that decision because it will rescue Lebanon from Israeli interventions. And, in the light of Lebanon's national interest, Lebanon strengthens its pan-Arab and fraternal ties with Syria on the basis of the unity of the two people and the shared geography and history.

Afghanistan

Kidnapper Set Demands for Release of Chinese Hostages

BK0607121093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1056 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Excerpt] Quetta, Pakistan, July 6 (AFP)—An Afghan guerrilla commander has taken to Afghanistan the two Chinese technicians who were kidnapped 15 days ago, a senior Pakistan official said here Tuesday [6 July]. The Chinese abducted on June 21 were identified as Weng Chin Ping and Zheng Hong Pao, who were engaged in a private project in Bostan, near here.

They were kidnapped by six armed men of Mulla Abdol Salam, who once belonged to the Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] faction of Afghan premier Golboddin Hekmatyar.

Conveying his conditions, Salam has demanded the release of his brother from a Pakistani jail, compensation for the death of his nephew killed recently by the local militia and return of shoulder-carried anti-aircraft Stinger missiles captured by troops in an encounter early this year, Commissioner Nasir Ashraf told reporters. Ashraf said this incident could have been avoided had the Chinese technicians requested permission to work in a tribal area. Foreigners are required to get permission and are provided with a guard to go in the semi-autonomous tribal areas of Pakistan.

The chief minister of this southeastern Baluchistan province, Zulfiqar Magsi, said here Monday that he had requested the Pakistani Foreign Office to approach its Afghan counterpart for an early release of the two Chinese. This is the second abduction of Chinese in Baluchistan within one year. [passage omitted]

Hekmatyar Stresses Security, Islamic Government

LD0407205993 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Dari to Afghanistan 0900 GMT 4 Jul 93

[Address by Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar to people of Chahardehi; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage indistinct] So far we have not established an Islamic government. Let us install an Islamic government. When an Islamic government is established, all our problems will be solved: Security will be ensured and poverty, hunger, famine, and high prices will [words indistinct] and no one will be afraid. The government will be in the service of the people [words indistinct].

I hope that with the establishment of the Islamic government, Almighty God will resolve all our problems. In connection with the specific problems of the people of Chahardehi, God willing, we will seek understanding with the sectors concerned, and will ask them to be merciful with the people and no longer be the cause of the people's trouble and we will ask that ways for movement will be opened not only to the people of Chahardehi but to all residents of Kabul, because all Kabul residents live in a prison. People cannot go from one ward to another. They live in fear. Artillery and tanks are in positions on top of their homes. Security posts are set up everywhere in their wards and villages. Men with rocket launchers on their shoulders threaten the people. We want all armed forces to leave Kabul, those who have caused the people trouble and are the cause of insecurity, those who have closed the roads and converted Kabul into a prison, a horrific prison.

We want all armed forces to leave Kabul. The security of Kabul should be ensured by the police under the Ministry of Internal Affairs. For the moment we want the people of every ward to ensure the security of their area. The people absolutely do not need those [words indistinct] seditious people. They must leave. The people should ensure their security by setting up councils formed by the local people. They should carry out patrol duties themselves until the police are reestablished—until the police force is revived in the wards.

We want all armed people to leave Kabul. We approved in our first session that heavy weapons should be moved out of the city of Kabul and its periphery so as not to threaten the city. We resolved in the first cabinet meeting that all armed forces must leave Kabul and that the security force is to be reestablished to ensure the security of the city of Kabul. It was resolved at the first meeting that the roads be opened. [passage omitted]

We committed ourselved before God that we will either bring about a situation in our country where God's religion rules, the lives and property and the honor of the people are safe from any kind of attack, [words indistinct] oppressors do not have the courage to attack the life and property of the oppressed and the meek; otherwise, we will be killed and become martyrs. [applause] We will never leave our people, while under oppression, on their own. We are with our oppressed and alongside them and will campaign against oppression to the end of our lives. We did not fight for power but for the triumph of God's name and for the rule of the Koran.

Justice should be ensured. When we realize that we cannot serve our people, we will turn down the office of premiership and will stand by you. This is our pledge. Almighty God will resolve all these problems, and the blood of our people will not be in vain. God willing, total security will prevail in our country—in Kabul and in the whole of Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

God tests to see who sells his belief and faith for money; who fights for money against a Muslim; who compromises and commits treason for power; who makes friends with infidels [words indistinct]. God wants to test this. This is also a stage of misery and test. He tested us yesterday against the Russians, by seeking refuge, by the destruction of our houses. Today He tests us to see who has fought for the sake of God and who for money, office, and position. [passage omitted]

Commission Meeting Discusses Implementing Resolutions

LD0607201993 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1715 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] The commission on assessing the implementation of the decisions by the higher session of ministers held a meeting today at the premiership building, and conducted talks on important security issues. The press office of the premiership reported to us that the commission consists of four cabinet members, headed by esteemed Qazi Mohammad Amin Weqad, minister of communications.

The commission continued talks on recent resolutions of the higher session of ministers; the topics covered included the evacuation of the building of the premiership and related institutions, the transport of heavy weapons, the eviction of armed units from the city, the opening of Gozargah passage, the ensuring of a reliable and lasting cease-fire, the stationing of a buffer force between opposing forces, and the pursuit of the work of the commissions of the ministries of defense, foreign affairs, internal affairs, and culture and information. The meeting also discussed the supervision of the cease-fire, and made due decisions in this respect.

The commission's meetings will continue until the full implementation of the resolutions of the higher session of ministers.

Iran

President Returns from Turkey, Comments on ECO Summit

NC0807070893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Statement by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on his return to Tehran from the Economic Cooperation Organization, ECO, summit on 7 July—recorded]

In the name of God, the almighty and merciful. The session was extremely thorough. Preparations were good. The agenda was thoroughly prepared at the foreign ministers session in Islamabad, Pakistan, at a session of experts in Turkey, and a foreign ministers gathering there. So summit discussions did not take up much time and the topics on the agenda were accepted after they were read.

One special characteristic of the conference was that it was operational; we did not need to go into miscellaneous, political, and explanatory discussions. We adopted executive decisions fast and it was interesting to note that the new ECO members were more serious than the ECO founders, because they feel the need for such an organization and want us to start implementing things fast.

Our studies showed the ECO can be a powerful organization because it represents a population of around 300 million, has vast resources, and enjoys a significant geographic situation. These factors constitute good grounds for creating a major economic power.

Among the special session decisions was expanding political and economic cooperation with other international organizations. The representatives of the Islamic Bank, ESCAP [Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific], and others regarded this cooperation very seriously.

The decisions, which I think were significant, included forming a joint bank, joint insurance, and aviation and navigation services. Then there was the formation of free commercial and industrial zones, joint border markets, a mixed company of joint transport, and concentrating activities on communications, such as telecommunications, railways, gas and oil pipelines, roads, and aviation and navigation. The northern member countries wanted these things fast. We accepted the role of these areas. I think the decisions were good, everyone was satisfied, and there was unity at the session.

Our activities on the sidelines were also very significant. We had about nine extremely important meetings with the heads of the other nine ECO members concerning mutual affairs. A lot of work was involved. We covered serious issues, such as the (?markets) in Iran, Tajikistan, and Afghanistan, which have basic problems. We found good understanding at these sessions on solving such problems.

I hope our nation and all other member nations can enjoy the blessings of this ECO session and we can become a strong pivot in the world to compete with other groups.

ECO Summit 'Positive, Useful'

LD0807075193 Tehran IRNA in English 0701 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Tehran, July 8, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani arrived here from Istanbul late Wednesday [7 July] night after attending the two-day summit of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) held in Istanbul. Upon arrival at Tehran Mehrabad Airport, Rafsanjani described the 2nd ECO summit as "positive and useful." He told reporters that the summit meet had an executive nature during which a lot of work was done.

Referring to the vast potentials and natural resources of the ECO member countries, the president said that ECO is capable of turning into a major economic power. Among the decisions adopted by the summit were establishment of an ECO development bank and a joint insurance company for shipping and air lines, setting up

of free trade and industral zones, common border markets and joint transportation companies, telecommunication cooperation and laying gas and oil pipelines and rails.

Among other decisions adopted by the summit, he added, was development of cooperation between ECO and other international political and economic organizations. Rafsanfjani termed as important his meetings with heads of ECO member countries in which they discussed major issues of the Islamic world as well as bilateral questions.

In his official visit to Istanbul, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani was accompanied by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, vice-speaker of the Majles Hasan Ruhani, Heavy Industries Minister Mohammad-Hadi Nejad-Hoseynian, Governor of the Central Bank Mohammad-Hoseyn 'Adeli, and a group of Majles deputies.

During the ECO summit in Istanbul the presidents of Turkey, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Afghanistan, and the prime minister of Pakistan and deputy prime minister of Azerbaijan had separate meetings with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

The summit of the ten-member organization that strove to sketch an outlook of the future activities of the organization concluded with a resolution in Istanbul Wednesday.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani was greeted in Tehran Mehrabad airport by Vice President Hasan Habibi, several cabinet ministers as well as a number of ambassadors in Tehran.

The visit to Istanbul was the first since his election for the second term of his presidency last month.

G-7 Call for Ending Arms Purchases, Terrorism Support Noted

LD0807104993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Excerpts] As you are aware, the leaders of the world's seven industrial states have come together in Tokyo to coordinate their stances and views on political and economic issues. The Tokyo summit declared its views by issuing a political declaration today. [passage omitted]

The declaration has asked the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] to refrain from buying military weapons. However, according to official statistics released by international research centers some time ago, the IRI's weapons purchases have been the lowest among the countries of the region.

The leaders of the world's seven main industrial states have also asked Iran to stop supporting what the leaders of the seven industrial states refer to as terrorism. [passage omitted]

Summit Aims To 'Plunder' Third World

LD0707223693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Political leaders of seven major industrial states today opened their annual session in Tokyo, capital of Japan. The summit is being held under the conditions when sweeping propaganda campaign by the Western mass media is engaged in surveying various aspects of official consultations among the leaders of America, France, Britain, Japan, Italy, Germany and Canada.

However, due to the vastness of these countries' preoccupations in political and economic spheres at global level, one can discuss different viewpoints regarding the important subjects to come up at this big consultative session. Hence this significant point should not be forgotten, that, based on the experience gained over many years, generally main issues under discussion hardly emerge at the general level and mostly the cases whose publicity in the mass media is harmless are criticized. Therefore the unpublicized results of each summit take at least one year to be revealed. On the basis of such a rare accord of these seven states, one can guess as to what issues were decided upon at last year's summit.

But this does not mean that such important issues as severe recession in the capital world's economy as well as the U.S.-Euro drifts over the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, GATT, and other current cases are not among the main subjects of discussion.

But it must be given due attention that the ultimate goal of such consultative sessions is mostly related to forging coordination among the hegemonic states for having further access to the third countries' raw material and to further plunder them through various means whose salient features are discussed at such sessions.

In other words the summit of seven industrial states in fact is a venue for the adoption of a uniform strategy by them to have further domination over developing countries.

In the midst it is evident that in some cases there arise differences over division of interest and the scope of operations of the firms in the industrial world and such annual sessions help remove these rifts.

On this account in discussing the summit of the Group of Seven, which opened today, closer attention should be focused on discovering behind the scene issues which will form the main subjects of deliberations for the next two days. There is no denying the fact that the leaders who have now gathered in Tokyo are mostly sympathetic toward the host. Japanese prime minister, Kiichi

Miyazawa, while hosting the current summit, is faced with the biggest political crisis in his country over the past four decades. Naturally this situation would directly effect his posturings. The British and Italian leaders too have come to this summit under the conditions when they are politically grappling with their deep crises arising out of kickbacks and other cases of financial misappropriation at home.

French President Francois Mitterrand too, after the heavy defeat of the Socialists in the March elections at the hands of the Center Right faction, is faced with the weakest position during his rule.

Mr. Clinton and Ms. Campbell, prime minister of Canada, who are attending such a summit for the first time, should mostly engage in accessing their conditions [as heard] despite the fact that Clinton is trying to forget about the promises he gave during the presidential election campaign, and similar to his predecessor George Bush, by participating in political adventures, is intending to reiterate Washington's claim on world leadership to the U.S. allies.

Despite all these issues, it seems that the leaders of these seven states, who have recently endeavored to bring the bankrupt Russia into their ranks, have convened the summit at one of the most sensitive occasions of the industrialized and capitalist world.

Undoubtedly the decisions to be adopted at the summit will have a considerable effect in the future ties of the developed states with the third world countries. Such ties have been so far instrumental in further exploitation and plunder.

Foreign Ministry Concerned Over 'Armenian Aggression'

LD0707155793 Tehran IRNA in English 1526 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Baku, July 7, IRNA—The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Baku announced on Tuesday [6 July] that the Islamic Republic is meticulously monitoring the developments in its neighboring states.

Meanwhile, the Iranian Foreign Ministry expressed concern recently about Armenian approach towards Azerbaijan in gaining territorial concessions from the Azeri Republic.

President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani has recently declared Iran's principled stance vis-a-vis Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan.

Mohajerani on U.S. Policy, Other Issues

NC0607144593 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 27 Jun 93 pp 1, 2, 10

["Exclusive" interview with 'Ataollah Mohajerani, vice president for legal and parliamentary affairs, with unidentified ABRAR correspondent in Tehran; date not given]

[Excerpts] [ABRAR] Despite the extensive participation by the people in the presidential elections, we noted that a segment of the population did not participate. What do you think is the reason for this? What policy should we adopt in the future to elicit the participation of this segment of the people in elections?

[Mohajerani] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

The fact is that in the sixth round of presidential elections nearly 17 million people participated, which is quite an appropriate and decisive figure. Perhaps the most important reason for more extensive and overall participation by the people is that the elections do not depend on any political organizing of society. We have adopted a series of political insitutions, such as parliamentary and republican systems from the systems in the world. However, these systems require a organization of political parties, which has not, for some reason, been happened in our society.

Of course, some unsuccessful experiments also exist, of which we are all complaining. Political groups and organizations existed that were formed in the early days of the revolution. They rose up against the revolution and even launched an armed struggle against it. Due to their political immaturity, instead of forging a strong and cohesive society they became instrumental in sowing discord, and this in itself stemmed the trend of establishing political parties.

In general, when presidential elections are held in a country where there is no organization of the political parties, one should not expect more than 90 percent of the eligible voters to participate. [passage omitted]

One factor is that in the first four years of the president's term we witnessed political propaganda against the government's decisions and economic policies. We cannot ignore this propaganda's role in generating an atmosphere of pessimism and mistrust among a segment of the people.

It is easier to tear down than to build. It is easy to instill a venomous atmosphere in society, but to eliminate it is rather difficult. A famous adage says that one person can easily throw a stone into a well, but it requires dozens of people to bring it out, and even then they do so with great difficulty. [passage omitted]

[ABRAR] Your Excellency mentioned the number of parties. Quite a few years have passed since political groups generated tension in our society. What reason can you give for the lack of the emergence of political parties in our country?

[Mohajerani] [passage omitted] In my opinion, if most of the political groups in the country were to take steps toward a political organization of parties and not toward one particular group or faction, it would be possible—on the basis of the collective experience that we have had

until now, and of course with some more trial and error—we may attain a successful political reorganization. [passage omitted]

[ABRAR] The next question pertains to the request by the Islamic Majles to the president regarding a change in the cabinet. How do you assess this request? Is it possible that this issue will eventually be resolved and do you know which ministers the Majles members were alluding to?

[Mohajerani] It is not easy to define the request of the Islamic Majles. This means that it is not clear that when a deputy propounds an issue, it is on the basis of the consensus of all the deputies. Besides, issues have to be discussed by the Legal Department of the Majles. One of the department's legal obligations is that it can interpellate a minister and if the minister does not get a vote of confidence, he is removed. On the other hand, the deputies can also vote for the group of ministers which the president introduces as his cabinet. In the third Majles, all the ministers received a vote of confidence.

It is possible that there will be a debate—probably a prolonged one—in the Majles regarding certain ministers. Perhaps some of the ministers may not receive the necessary votes but this is the legal prerogative of the Majles. Such interpellations have taken place in the past. [passage omitted]

[ABRAR] Your Excellency once referred to certain differences among the countries of the North. The question arises: To what extent does the policy of these countries differ toward the countries of the South, in particular toward the Islamic Republic of Iran, and how far are they willing to go in this direction? Will they prefer to think of their gains in selling their products to Iran or will they unite for suppression of Iran as an obstacle in their path?

[Mohajerani] The fact is that the countries of the North attach more importance to their mutual relations than to relations with the countries of the south. Japan has a trade balance with the United States of approximately $60-80 billion annually. If you compare this figure to Japan's trade with other countries or the countries in this region, you will see why Japan attaches such importance to its trade relations with the United States. [passage omitted]

[ABRAR] Recently, U.S. officials announced that they are going to adopt a policy of isolating Iran. For example, they are seeking to motivate their economic partners in the West to impose a trade embargo on the Islamic Republic of Iran. Politically, they wish to distort Iran's image by leveling charges such as terrorism, efforts for manufacturing an atom bomb, and so on. What means do you perceive for combating these efforts by the United States abroad?

[Mohajerani] This policy that the United States has announced against us is known as the strategy of a multifaceted restriction of Iran, which has seven characteristics. The first is to isolate Iran. The second is that the United States has realized that it needs to revise its policy regarding Iran and Iraq, a policy it used for balancing one against the other.

The Americans want a weak Iran and have said that a series of embargoes should be implemented against Iran so that it would be faced with a two-pronged problem: first that Iran may not have any income and second that it should be restricted in its attempts to obtain technology. They proposed that Washington use its political influence on its allies to exert pressure on Iran, which we have already witnessed. For example, a country that has a large market in the United States will cooperate with that particular country so that it does not lose its market for the sale of its products.

The Americans have initiated a psychological-economic war against us and are projecting the impression that Iran is an economically weak country and is unable to repay its loans and credits. This is a sort of investment for them. The last point is that they portray the atmosphere in Iran as not conducive to large-scale investment.

The Americans are pursuing a two-faced policy against our country. First, they wish to distort the image of our national unity and stability. They wish to depict Iran as a country riven with internal problems by means of their propaganda. Second, they are constantly striving to generate tension among our neighboring countries. It may be noted that in both these instances it is only the United States that stands to benefit.

On the basis of the above I believe that our relations with the regional countries and all our neighbors should be based on elimination of tension. The fact is that we are a very vast country in a very sensitive region. Therefore, we should not have any problems with any of our neighboring countries. We should resolve all problems with our neighbors by ourselves with haste, otherwise the Americans will come and use it as a pretext for creating problems and capitalizing on the situation.

For example, they create a problem in one part of the Persian Gulf. Well there are some countries in the Persian Gulf region that do not have a record of good relations with us and the conditions are ripe for a misunderstanding. These countries spared no efforts to support Iraq against us in the war with Iraq and, despite the fact that we make immense efforts to improve our relations with them, the Americans stir up trouble and make their presence seem indispensable. For instance, they say Iran is a danger and Iraq is another source of danger, and so on. That is why our presence in the region is so essential.

You have heard the adage that a cat does not hunt mice merely to please God. Similarly, the Americans are not simply in the region for preserving stability and democracy. They are here for dominating the sources of energy and the routes for the passage of oil in the Persian Gulf.

Unfortunately, some of the countries in the region are structured like a pyramid. They do not rely on their people as they should and think their legitimacy stems from foreign endorsement. They are the ones who created conditions for the presence of Americans in the region.

One must pay attention to the fact that the U.S. strategy is to create tension in the relations of the countries in the region. I believe that one must note whether the United States benefits more by creating tension between two countries—for example Iran and Saudi Arabia—or the Islamic world. [passage omitted]

[ABRAR] A question comes to mind here. One of the regions that the United States covets is the Persian Gulf. By instilling fear against Iran among the Persian Gulf Arabs, it is seeking to make them more dependent on itself. It is doing so by means of arms sales, signing of mutual military and security accords, and by maintaining its direct presence in the region.

Is it possible that in order to counteract the domineering and warmongering objectives of the United States, we should propound the plan for a demilitarized Persian Gulf? Will it not, in your opinion, contribute to the stability and security of the region?

[Mohajerani] The fact is that the Americans want the Persian Gulf to be a militarized zone. Since they wish to maintain their presence in the region, they strive to increase the dependence of the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf on them so that they can be considered the pawns for U.S. games in the region.

One of the reasons given by the United States for justifying its presence and for making the regional countries more dependent on it is the Iranian threat. Fortunately, the experience of the past few years has proved that we are not the ones to covet the territory of any other country, Iraq is. The latter had territorial designs against us and was defeated. The second time it aggressed against the Kuwaiti borders but was driven out by the allied forces from Kuwaiti territory.

[ABRAR] The conflict between Qatar and Saudi Arabia can also be considered in the same category.

[Mohajerani] Yes. There is a geographical-historical background for the issues in the region. [passage omitted]

The United States and the Arab countries of the region are well aware that the war with Iraq proved that a war cannot be fought by weapons alone. It relies on the people who defend their homeland, their revolution, and their independence. Our people and our government are not such that with the mere entry of the Iraqis, they should flee their country by means of helicopters. The only souvenirs of their country the Kuwaitis took along were their bankbooks.

In other words, they could not rely on their people. Such countries have to regularly pay for weapons and to depend on countries such as the United States. Our country has never purchased as many weapons as Kuwait, and does not need to. This is because our base is our people. In any case, by relying on indigenous military production and our own experts, our country does not have any problems with its defense.

As for the demilitarization of the Persian Gulf, one may state that this is an idealistic concept that should be resolved after consultations between Iran and the Arab countries of the region. The main requisite for this to materialize would be to sign a mutual peace accord. In order to achieve this, the relations among the countries of the region would have to expand. It is possible two countries may have extensive economic relations but their political relations may not have broadened much. It is only with the broadening of political relations that military relations and intelligence can expand among them.

[ABRAR] Well, if the United States is seeking to mar relations between Iran and the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf, our political relations will never expand and the plan to demilitarize the Persian Gulf region will never materialize.

[Mohajerani] As one of the parties, we should muster all our efforts so that our relations with these countries can expand. This expansion should continue despite the fact that these countries supported Baghdad in the eight-year war against us and did not even condemn Iraq's aggression against us. In any case, we have been successful in the efforts that we have made to broaden relations with most of the countries of the region. Now those countries are not only in fear of us but of Iraq as well and are seeking to latch on to a greater power so that the Kuwait phenomenon is not repeated.

Of course, this fear will continue to be stoked by the United States and Britain in the Persian Gulf region. We should be optimistic that the day will come when the regional countries will not need the foreigners who have come across the oceans and now have their military presence here. With their concerted efforts along with their neighbors, they will be able to protect the security of the Persian Gulf. This will, of course, require some time.

[ABRAR] Your Excellency mentioned that we should have cordial relations with our neighbors. How do you view our relations with Iraq in this context, especially keeping in mind that we do not have cordial relations with Iraq because of its aggression against our country?

[Mohajerani] We should divide this issue into two parts to facilitate the discussion. Having cordial relations with a neighboring country does not amount to an endorsement of that country's system or values. In other words, it is possible that we may have principled differences with another country. At times we may merely have to choose the lesser evil instead of the good and the better. [passage omitted]

On the other hand, we must pay attention to relations between Iran and Iraq. We should open up our borders so that the two nations can intermingle. This is of special importance with regard to the holy shrines in al-Najaf, Karbala', and Samarrah. In practice, we favor this intermingling as this is in the interest of Islam and our nation. In any case, in this manner we will be able to eliminate that mischief that a certain group wants to create between us.

[ABRAR] The last question is with regard to the world conference on human rights in Vienna. As you are aware, there are conflicting views prevailing at the conference. One is the viewpoint of the West, which is seeking to implement its own viewpoint and interpretation. The second is that of the group of countries, especially from Asia, which is opposed to this version of human rights. How do you assess this dichotomy of opinion?

[Mohajerani] There are different versions here. One is the theoretical view of human rights. No free and revolutionary country can ever disregard the issue of human rights, much less a revolution such as the Islamic Revolution, which is based on religion. Fundamentally, religion specifies certain injunctions for upholding human rights. Then there is another view which considers human rights to be a political instrument. For example, from this point of view, human rights was used as a political instrument and pressure was exerted on the revolutionary government of Nicaragua. So it was forced to step down and let another government take over. In general, the Americans are currently using this instrument to expand their hegemony and power, when in fact they are not in the least concerned with human rights as such. [passage omitted]

Countries such as Iran, Syria, Cuba, and Sudan uphold human rights and our governmental systems are based on the will of our people. However, since all these countries do not take orders from the United States and the West, they are considered violators of human rights. In other words, since we are not under U.S. domination we are deemed violators of human rights, but countries such as Israel, which are among the most extreme violators of human rights, have no problems and are said to be democratic! In my opinion, the term "human rights" should be redefined so that it is not abused again.

[ABRAR] Thank you very much for your time.

Commentary Views Egypt's Role in Mideast Negotiations

LD0707224993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres yesterday ended his two day visit to Cairo. Having traveled to Cairo tor persuade the Egyptian president to mediate in the so-called adjustment of the postures of the Syrians and Palestinians in the peace talks, he met with President Husni Mubarak and other Egyptian officials during his stay in that country.

The Israeli foreign minister's visit to Cairo came just a few days after the conclusion of the 10th round of the bilateral peace talks in Washington last Tuesday. On the last day of the Washington talks the United States presented a document on the manner of the Palestinian's self-rule in the occupied lands to the Israeli and Palestinian teams.

In this proposed document, which stresses the matters related to administration and mode of transferring certain responsibilities to the Palestinians in the fields of tourism, health, education, social welfare and labor, the issue on the status of Beit ol-Moqaddas [Jerusalem] which is demanded by the Palestinians, has been accommodated in the final stages of the parleys.

This U.S. proposed document has met with a sharp and critical reaction from the Palestinians who believe that the issue of Beit ol-Moqaddas should be discussed in the initial phases of the negotiations. A Palestinian spokesman, in this regard, pointed out these are (?owed to) the Palestinians who have the right of sovereignty in the occupied lands and Israel is not entitled to share such right in those territories.

The points mentioned in the U.S. proposed document include identical items which have been suggested in the earlier plan that was presented by the Zionist regime on grant of self-rule to the Palestinians in the occupied lands. Hence Palestinian circles have expressed the opinion that presentation of such plans is orchestrated with the Israeli policy and it is in open conflict with the U.S. contentions about playing a fair and just role in the talks.

The head of the Palestinian team, following the release of the document by the United States, accused it of supporting the Zionist regime. The Palestinian team views the subject of Beit ol-Moqaddas, which was occupied by Israel during the June 1967 wa, and was later annexed to the occupied Palestine, as a part of the issue of the occupied territories, believing that the fate of Beit ol-Moqaddas too should be determined at the very outset and on the basis of the UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. This is under the conditions when the Zionist regime has been evading the mooting of this issue and even discussing the status of these two resolutions.

Under such conditions, the visit of Shim'on Peres to Cairo and his meetings with the top Egyptian officials assume special significance in view of the role played by Cairo in the compromise talks between the Arabs and the Zionist regime.

Since the start of the so-called Middle East peace parleys, the Egyptian regime, based on its special ties with Israel and America, has acted as an effective mediator capable of bringing the views of the Arabs and Palestinians closer

to the Zionist regime's postures. This role can well be discerned in the attempt to persuade the Arabs and the Palestinians to attend the ninth round of the so-called peace talks despite the unresolved issue of the exiled Palestinians. For this reason, in consideration of the comments made by Husni Mubarak yesterday—in which he said that the talks were moving on the proper course toward a broad-based peace—or the comments of the Egyptian foreign minister—to the effect that the U.S. draft plan can act as the basis for advancing the Middle East peace talks, some political analysts have this opinion: Henceforth one should wait for the concerted efforts from the Egyptian officials for softening the Palestinians' stand.

But there are major doubts as to whether such efforts and moves would realize the Palestinians' demands and aspirations. The Egyptian regime's record has already specified that the main goal of its rulers is to further draw the Arabs to compromise with the Zionist regime.

Talks Held With Ukrainian Transport Minister

LD0707181893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] During talks held today between Mr. Klympush, the Ukrainian transport minister, and Sa'idi-Kia, our roads and transport minister, a proposal by Mr. Sa'idi-Kia on the use of Ukrainian territory by Iranian overland transport for transit purposes to Europe was accepted by the Ukrainian delegation. Expert negotiations are to be held in that regard.

During the same meeting the Ukrainian transport minister expressed his country's readiness for marine, road, and rail transport cooperation with Iran.

West Said To Favor Military Intervention in Pakistan

LD0807080593 Tehran IRNA in English 0646 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] London, July 8, IRNA—Despite claims of supporting democracy, Western governments are said to favor military intervention in Pakistan and even the imposition of martial law, should it prove necessary, during the present political crisis. An Army takeover in the power battle between Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, and President Ishaq Khan, could eventually pave the way for Benazir Bhutto being restored to power, which could also be in the West's interests.

At a private meeting of European Community ambassadors in Islamabad on Monday, there was a reported consensus that the four month power struggle had made Pakistan virtually ungovernable and military intervention almost inevitable.

According to Ahmed Rashid, writing for the London INDEPENDENT Wednesday, the diplomats decided to recommend to their governments that if the president declares an emergency and the army is called in, then EC aid should not be cut. The only dissenting voice was said to be from Britain, as prime minister, John Major, had built up a "close relationship" with Sharif.

The U.S. was reported to have also moved away from its position of supporting the Pakistani prime minister, believing that "only the military could restore stability." Japan, the largest aid donor, was similarly changing its stance.

Rashid said that the Pakistani Army was already cooperating with U.S. and Middle East intelligence agencies to round up "Arab militants" in the country and in Afghanistan, but provided no further details. It was also noted that Pakistani forces were taking part in UN peacekeeping operations in Kuwait and Somalia, but no link was made about the recent supporting U.S. attacks in Mogadishu that followed the killing of several Pakistani troops.

The political crisis in Islamabad is seen based upon an attempt by Sharif to challenge the immense powers held by the president and where only a repeal of the Eighth Amendment to the Constitution can be achieved with the support of Bhutto. The leader of Pakistan's People's Party (PPP) is said to be trying to extract a high price, while for all its protestations of neutrality, the military is viewed siding with Khan.

With Bhutto not hiding her determination to make the prime minister fall, she is understood to be looking for Western support to ensure that the army has in its mandate no ambition to remain in power but to supervise new elections.

This appeared to be borne out by one senior Western diplomat, who was quoted by Rashid as saying, only the military can do a "repair job" and that the West would "back the Army to put the train of democracy back on the rails.

Paper Urges Enhanced Cooperation With Cuba

LD0807091593 Tehran IRNA in English 0835 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Tehran, July 8, IRNA—An Iranian daily Thursday [8 July] considered a meeting between President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Cuban leader Fidel Castro as "a powerful symbol of Third World and non-aligned unity." Describing Castro as the most important symbol of resistance against U.S. hegemony on the American continent, the English daily 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' said Iran should cooperate with him in order to stay true to its own revolutionary ideals.

Despite the "sharp contrast of ideologies, in the international political arena from Palestine to South Africa, the two sides are almost always pulling in the same direction," it said. Mentioning that Iran and Cuba were engaged in reconstruction of their economies "in the teeth of an American full-court press to undermine

[words indistinct] political systems" the daily recommended both countries to work on cooperation and reminded that "with the [words indistinct] business."

Turning to the shortage of fuel and raw materials to put into stream Cuban factories, it said that "why can't a deal be done with the one million tons of oil and other resources this country (Iran) could provide, against a share in the export revenues of these now sleeping facilities?"

Among other grounds for cooperation, it mentioned that the two countries could cooperate in tourism and training of Iranian athletes for the 1995 Asian contests.

Karaj Prisoners Released After Khamene'i Pardon

LD0807131493 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1200 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Last month 260 persons convicted on narcotics charges by Karaj courts were released from prison. They had previously been pardoned by the esteemed leader [Khamene'i]. According to the Islamic revolution prosecutor of Karaj they were imprisoned for not being able to pay cash fines, but were later pardoned.

Pakistan

Bhutto Meets President, Discusses Political Situation

BK0707143693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] The leader of the opposition and cochairperson of Pakistan People's Party, Ms Benazir Bhutto, called on the president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, at the Aiwan-i-Sadr [President's House] today. During the meeting, which lasted over 90 minutes, current political situation in the country was reviewed in detail. Ms Benazir Bhutto presented PDA's [People's Democratic Alliance] points of view on various issues and explained her perception of the situation and what she thought needed to be done to improve it.

The president emphasized that in a democratic setup, political activities by all parties must be carried out within constitutional parameters and the bounds of law. Mr. Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari and Mr. Aftab Ahmad Sherpao were also present in the meeting.

APC Relaxes Ultimatum on Deadline for New Elections

BK0807031893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] A meeting of the All-Party Conference [APC] was held in Islamabad yesterday which reviewed the overall political situation in the country. It was presided over by APC convener Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan. Later, talking to newsmen, Benazir Bhutto, cochairperson of the Pakistan People's Party, said the meeting held that the federal government is not operating within the framework of the Constitution. She claimed that the country is facing political and economic difficulties due to the policies of the present government. She asked the government to apprise the opposition of the new date for fresh elections.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1754 GMT on 7 July carries the following Islamabad-datelined item: "A multi-party conference on Wednesday decided to relax its ultimatum to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to call elections within four days or face a public storming of the capital, opposition leader Benazir Bhutto said.

["Bhutto said the All Party Conference (APC), comprising more than 20 parliamentary and extra-parliamentary opposition groups, made the decision 'to wait for a response' from Sharif as he had to visit Turkey as head of the Pakistani delegation at the current 10-nation summit of the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO), she told reporters here.

["The APC will meet in the Punjab capital Lahore on Saturday to consider the political situation and devise its future strategy, Bhutto said.

["On Monday the APC threatened to stage a 'long march' on Islamabad as a demonstration of 'people power', if Sharif failed to respond positively within four days to their demand for an announcement on new elections.

["The decision to extend the deadline was taken at a meeting at Bhutto's residence here lasting more than three hours. Two chief ministers leading provincial governments hostile to Sharif in the Punjab and the North West Frontier Province also attended the opposition meeting.

["Earlier Bhutto held a 90-minute meeting with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in which she demanded the re-dissolution of the National Assembly.

["She said the situation had worsened since the Supreme Court declared illegal Ishaq Khan's April 18 dissolution of the lower house.

["'The president is totally aware of his constitutional responsibilities and I am sure he would act accordingly,' she said."]

President Proposes Changes to Proclamation on Punjab

BK0707124193 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 7 Jul 93 pp 1, 10

[Text] Islamabad—President Ghulam Ishaq Khan Tuesday [6 July] approved with "some changes" the question relating to the proclamation, putting Punjab under central rule under Article 234, and sent it to the federal government for referring it to the Supreme Court for its opinion.

The precise nature of these "changes" suggested by the President is not known. However, a source believed that these pertain to some vital "legal" points, pinpointed by GIK's legal advisers after thoroughly studying the reference for two days.

The soruce claimed that the President had suggested that the question whether the resolution was passed by the Parliament strictly in accordance with the constitution and the Rules of Procedure should be included in the reference.

The President, the source said, had also proposed that the question whether the resolution was defective should also be incorporated in the reference.

Third, the question whether there was sufficient material justifying the passage of the resolution under Article 234 should be included by the reference.

All these points were raised by Chaudhry Aitzaz Ahsan, PDA MNA [People's Democratic Alliance member of National Assembly], in his lengthy speech during the debate on the resolution in the Parliament.

Law Minister Chaudhry Abdul Ghafoor told THE NEWS late Tuesday night that the President had proposed the changes under Article 48(1).

It reads: "In the exercise of his functions, the President shall act in accordance with the advice of the cabinet or the Prime Minister provided that the President may require the cabinet or as the case may be, the Prime Minister to reconsider such advice, either generally or otherwise, and the President shall act in accordance with the advice tendered after such reconsideration."

The Law Minister said that if the cabinet approved these changes, the reference will be handed over to the Supreme Court. However, if it considered these as unnecesary, the resolution will be sent again to the President for approval.

"The advice after such reconsideration is binding on the President under Article 48(1)," Chaudhry Ghafoor said.

Meanwhile, the cabinet is expected to meet immediately after the Prime Minister's return from Saudi Arabia, on Wednesday (today).

An informed source told THE NEWS that the reference was sent to the Cabinet Division Tuesday evening from the President House. Shortly after its receipt, a high level meeting was held which was attended by the Law Minister and several other cabinet members. The meeting, which was going on till the filing of this report, took into consideration the changes suggested by the President.

A few hours after the Parliament passed the resolution under Article 234 on June 29, authorising the federal government to take over the control of the Punjab, the Cabinet Secretary issued a proclamation to the effect.

The President contended that it could not be issued without his prior approval while the Prime Minister Secretariat held the opposite view thus generating a controversy.

To settle this issue in the face of the Punjab government's defiance to accept centre's rule, the Prime Minister decided to refer the matter to the Supreme Court to ascertain whether the federal government was empowered to issue the proclamation without President's approval or not.

Article 186 reads, "If, at any time, the President considers that it is desirable to obtain the opinion of the Supreme Court on any question of law which he considers of public importance, he may refer the question to the Supreme Court for consideration. (2) The Supreme Court shall consider a question so referred and report its opinion on the question to the President."

But this opinion is advisory and not binding. However, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister had declared a couple of days ago that the government would accept it.

Interestingly, the President cannot send the reference directly to the Supreme Court and has to route it through the federal government.

A presidential spokesman confirmed to THE NEWS that the reference has been sent to the federal government with some changes for handing it over to the Supreme Court.

"It does not need to be sent to the President again," he said to a question.

After the row developed over the validity of the proclamation, the federal cabinet decided to refer the matter to the Supreme Court. Observers, however, point out that this reference, even if sent to the Supreme Court for its opinion, may not be relevant as the validity of the proclamation had already been challenged by the Punjab government in the highest court.

The constitutionality as well as the question of how the proclamation should be issued and who is authorised to do so, are automatically going to be decided by the Court while adjudicating upon the provincial government's petition.

Sharif on U.S. Approach to South Asia, Other Issues

BK0707162493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has expressed Pakistan's keen desire to establish strong relations with the Central Asian countries. In an interview with the editor of a mass circulation Turkish journal ZAMAN in Istanbul, he said Pakistan shares with these countries eternal bonds of culture and history. He pointed out that substantive progress has been made

toward the promotion of relations with the brotherly Central Asian countries and Azerbaijan within the short period of two years.

Answering questions, the prime minister said Pakistan welcomes Washington's even-handed approach toward South Asia and hopes this will lead to a more active U.S. role in the region, which will contribute toward the resolution of the Kashmir problem in accordance with UN resolutions.

About the political developments in Pakistan, Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said the Supreme Court's verdict restoring the National Assembly will go down as a historic landmark in the progress of the democratic system in the country. He said the court's verdict has proven that the people's will reigns supreme in Pakistan and it cannot be subservient to any other force.

Regular Border Talks Meeting Held With India 6 Jul

BK0707155793 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 7 Jul 93 p 10

[Text] Lahore, July 6—Bi-annual meeting between Director General Pakistan Rangers, Maj. Gen. Safder Ali Khan and Inspector- General Border Security Force India, Shri Ashok Kumar Bundari held here this morning.

During the meeting they discussed the progress in the construction and maintenance of boundary pillars along with international border.

Both sides expressed satisfaction over the progress of maintenance work undertaken by the survey and works department of the two countries.

Besides this matters relating to smuggling, illegal border crossing and handling of inadvertant crossers were also discussed at length.

It was agreed upon that in order to maintain harmony in functioning of the two border security forces, necessary measures will be taken to stop smuggling and entry of illegal immigrants.

Forty People Said Killed in Kashmir; Hostage Taken

BK0707165893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] In occupied Kashmir, 40 people, including 10 Indian troops, have been killed in clashes between mojahedin and occupation troops during the last 24 hours. According to KMS [KASHMIR MEDIA SERVICE], fresh clashes have been reported from Uri, Bandipura, Islamabad, Kupwara, and (Daragam). In Shupiyan, a military vehicle was blown up in a land mine explosion, killing an officer on the spot. Indian troops shot dead a youth in custody in Srinagar. The incident sparked protest and resentment among the people who took out a big procession. Women also took to the street at (Zonimarg) to register their anger and shock. Reports from Jammu say that mojahedin have taken one Indian soldier as hostage.